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Comic Shop News
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
1992

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Happy Holidays and welcome to the CSN Holiday Special

The publishers of *CSN* are aware that selecting gifts for a comics fan can be very difficult. There's a huge assortment of comics material available, and it can be even more troublesome trying to find something just right for a the fan on your gift list.

That's where the *CSN Holiday Special* comes in. In this publication, you will find a wide assortment of gift ideas perfect for holiday giving. At the end of the *CSN Holiday Special* are "wish lists." All the comics fan has to do is read through the catalog, mark his or her gift wishes, and pass the list along. What could be easier?

Best of all, this *CSN Holiday Special* makes it easy for gift-givers to do what they wanted to do all along: give a thoughtful gift that will truly please the recipient. This catalog is filled with hundreds of gift ideas ranging in price from a dollar to hundreds of dollars, and covering pretty much every price in between.

Of course, the *CSN Holiday Special* is nowhere nearly complete in its listings. The best way to get an idea about everything that's available is to talk to the folks at your local comics shop; they're knowledgeable people who will be able to help you find just the right gift idea. They can also let you know about the availability of items that might have gone out of print (or might not have been released yet).

Happy shopping--and again,
happy holidays!

Cliff Biggers & Ward Batty
editors

Deluxe Items

Some people say a comics collector can be hard to shop for during the holidays; it's hard to keep up with just *what* he or she collects, and you have no ideas what he or she hasn't already bought. After all, comics collectors aren't always known for their patience and restraint...

For many collectors, the way to guarantee a great holiday surprise--and the kind of gift that the collector would rarely buy for himself or herself--is to shop for *deluxe comics items*. These are often the sort of item that the collector simply can't afford for himself--which means that they'll be very much appreciated as gifts.

Thanks to the efforts of a large number of publishers who want to make sure that some comics items get the quality treatment that they deserve, there are numerous slightly more expensive items that would appeal to the tastes of any collector. These items are very often a bit too expensive for collectors who spend most of their comics budget keeping up with their weekly titles; however, they're in the perfect price range for gifts.

Batman was one of the hits of 1989, and he managed to set a few records when he returned to the screen again in 1992, so now's a great time to get on the Batman holiday sleigh. Some of the quality Batman hardcover items available on the comic shop racks are ***The Complete Frank Miller Batman*** (Longmeadow Press, $29.95), and its companion volume, ***Stacked Deck: The Greatest Joker Stories Ever Told*** (Longmeadow Press, $29.95). Each offers quality reprints of Batman stories in deluxe hardcover formats. The collector who wants to get in on the ground floor, though, would love a gift of ***Batman Archives Volumes One*** or ***Two*** (DC, $39.95@). Each volume reprints 24 Batman stories from the pages of the Golden Age ***Detective Comics,*** beginning with Batman's first appearance in ***Detective #27.*** Then there's also ***The Dark Knight Archives Volume One,*** reprinting the first four issues of the Golden Age Batman comic ($39.95). These are some classic stories that are far more entertaining by today's standards than the average Golden Age comic.

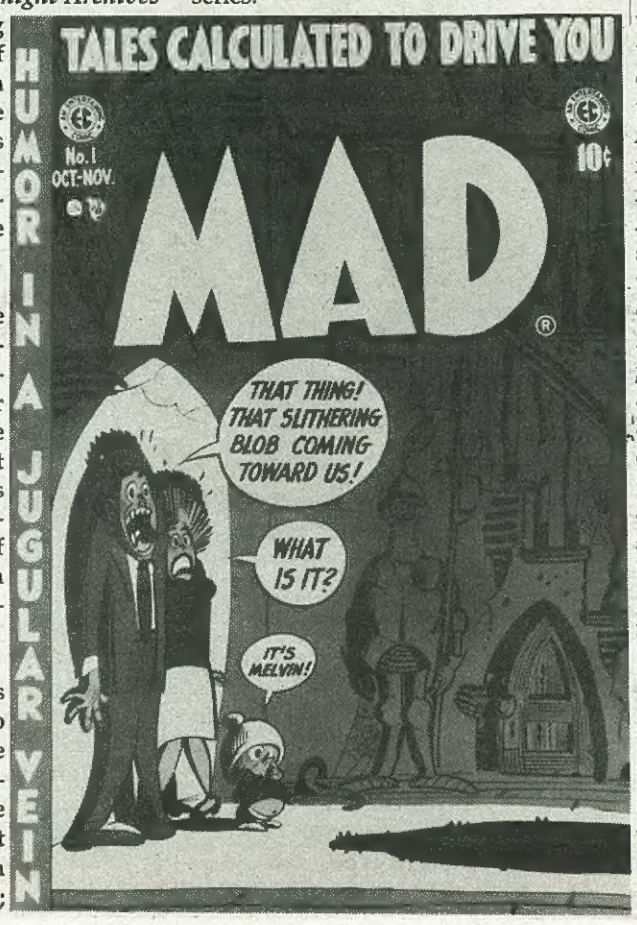
Batman tackles the issue of child abuse in ***Batman: Night Cries,*** a superlative hardcover graphic novel by Archie Goodwin and Scott Hampton ($24.95). This is one of the most moving Batman stories of the year—and it can only be had in hardcover...

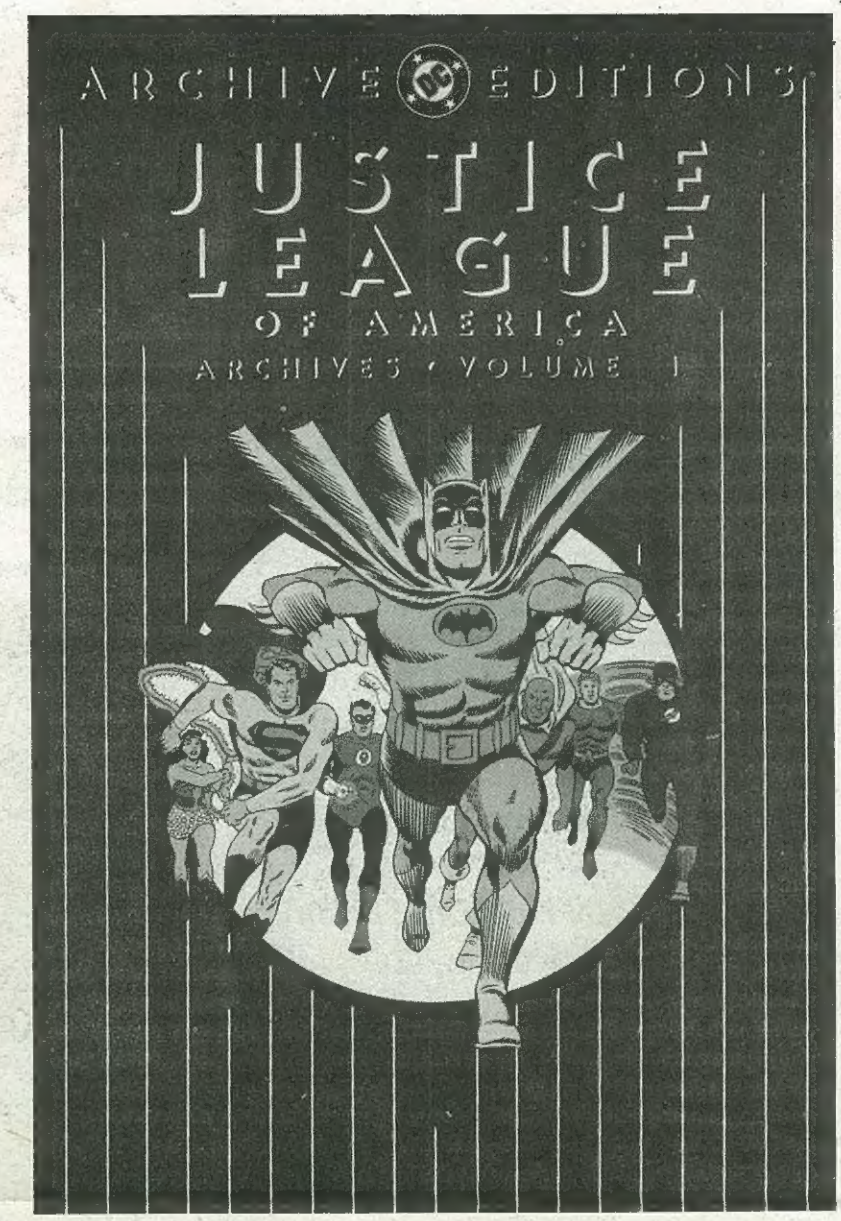
Don't think that DC has forgotten about the hero who started this whole superhero phenomenon. We're talking abut Superman here; while he may have made news by dying in the 75th issue of his own comic, he still lives on in a series of quality hardcover reprints. DC has released three volumes of their ***Superman Archives*** series so far. Each volume reprints four issues of ***Superman,*** complete with all ads, covers, and stories, in a single handsome hardcover edition ($39.95@).

For fans who'd love a chance to relive the Golden Age during the holiday season, DC has a couple of volumes that are just the ticket. ***The Shazam! Archives*** reprints the earliest Captain Marvel stories from the pages of Whiz Comics; the Big Red Cheese was as popular as Superman in his prime, and older fans will relish the opportunity to read his initial exploits. ***The All-Star Archives*** reprints the first four Golden Age Justice Society appearances; these books made history by teaming up a diverse group of superheroes for the very first time. ($49.95@)

Green Lantern was one of the earliest stars of DC's Silver Age; from the very beginning, his adventures have been integral to the DC Universe. Now you can give those early adventures as a much-appreciated gift; ***Green Lantern Archives Volume One*** reprints all three Green Lantern appearances in ***Showcase*** as well as the first six issues of his own series. Green Lantern also appears in ***The Justice League Archives Volume One,*** a hefty volume reprinting the first three ***Brave & Bold*** JLA appearances along with the first six issues of the League's own book. *(DC, $39.95@)*

Russ Cochran kicked off the idea of hardcover comics reprintings with his EC Library sets; the entire EC run is available in quality slipcased editions ranging in price from $30 for single volumes of ***Mad*** to $100 for large multi-volume sets. These books feature classic stories by comics greats, including some of the tales that have inspired HBO's hit ***Tales From the Crypt*** horror series.





Sixed boxed sets reprinting John Stanley's ***Little Lulu*** series are available from Another Rainbow; each contains three hardcover volumes in a deluxe slipcase for $125. These stories are classic all-ages tales from decades past, but their charm is timeless.

Marvel Comics also has some deluxe hardcovers that look impressive on the bookshelf as well as under the tree. ***Marvel Masterworks,*** the deluxe Marvel Comics reprint series, has twenty-two volumes available through December of this year, including five volumes reprinting the first fifty issues of ***Amazing Spider-Man,*** four volumes reprinting the first twenty issues of ***X-Men*** and the early issues of New ***X-Men,*** plus volumes reprinting the first six ***Hulks***, the first forty ***Fours***, the first twenty ***Avengers,*** the entire run of the original ***Silver Surfer,*** early Captain America appearances in ***Tales of Suspense*** as well as early Iron Man appearances from the same book, early Thor appearances in ***Journey Into Mystery,*** original Dr. Strange tales from ***Strange Tales,*** and the earliest issues of Daredevil. Priced at $34.95 (except for the second ***Silver Surfer*** volume, $44.95), these books give collectors a valuable library of some of the most valuable Silver Age comics in existence.

Marvel has also taken its superhero fans a half-decade into the past with two deluxe hardcover items. The first is a single-volume reprinting of ***Marvel Comics #1,*** Marvel's first comic (Marvel, $17.95); the second is a two-volume slipcased set that reprints the Simon & Kirby ***Captain America #s 1-10,*** the most famous patriotic-hero books of all time.

Marvel has also reprinted another Simon & Kirby patriotic hero, ***Fighting American,*** in a hardcover that will be a delightful holiday treat for fans of the star-spangled Avenger. Simon and Kirby are also responsible for the top-notch ***Boys' Ranch*** hardcover, which reprints the entire run of this classic Western adventure series from the 1950's ($39.95@).

Frank Miller introduced Elektra in the pages of Daredevil over a decade ago; in ***Elektra Lives Again,*** he and color artist Lynn Varley complete her epic saga in an unforgettable story. Any fan who has ever enjoyed Daredevil will appreciate this gift. ($24.95)

Marvel has ventured into the three-dimensional market with a series of bisques. Some of these hand-painted porcelain figures are out of production now, but individual stores might still have them in stock. Wolverine, Captain America, Spider-Man, and Punisher have been produced so far, in numbers ranging from 7500 to 13000 copies each. (Marvel, $49.95@) These figures are all out of production now, so prices might rise according to demand—but they're worth tracking down.

And speaking of bisques, DC has produced a stunning ***Lobo Bisque*** just in time for the holiday season. This $129.95 figure features a fully painted cold-cast porcelain statue of Lobo, complete with a real chain. This is the

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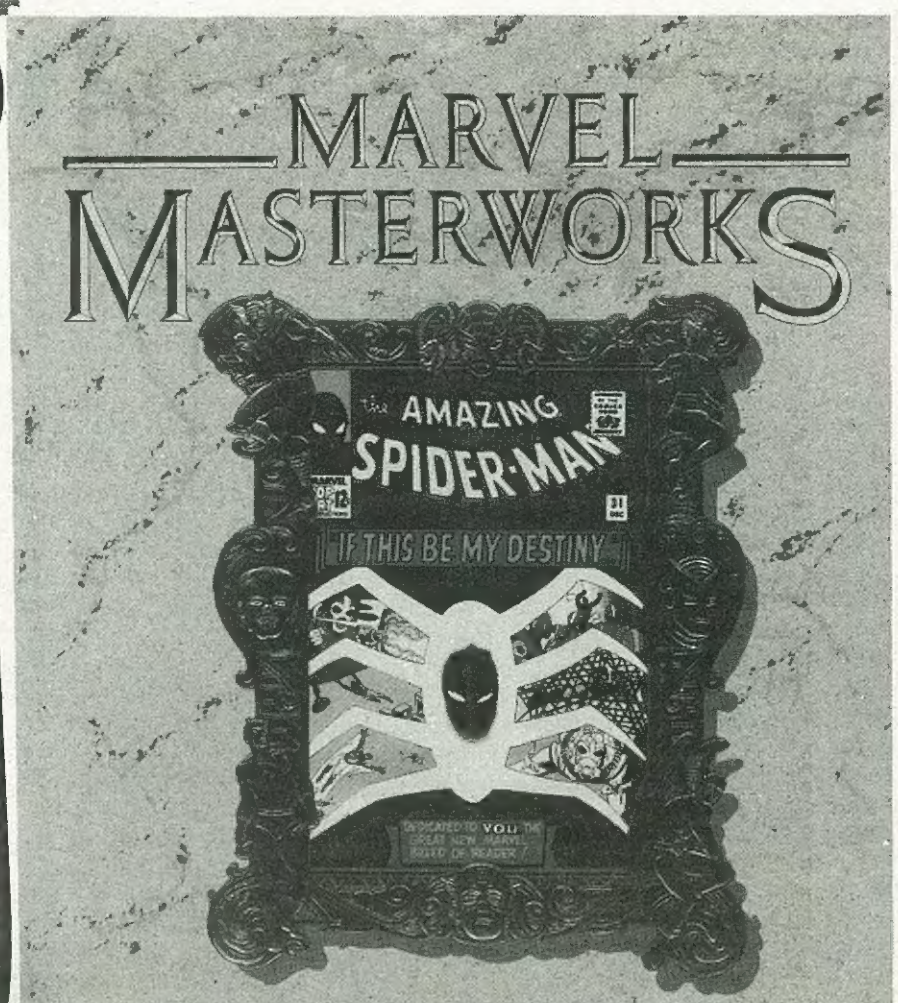
Deluxe Items



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® Nos. 31-40
& AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® ANNUAL No. 2
By STAN LEE, STEVE DITKO & JOHN ROMITA

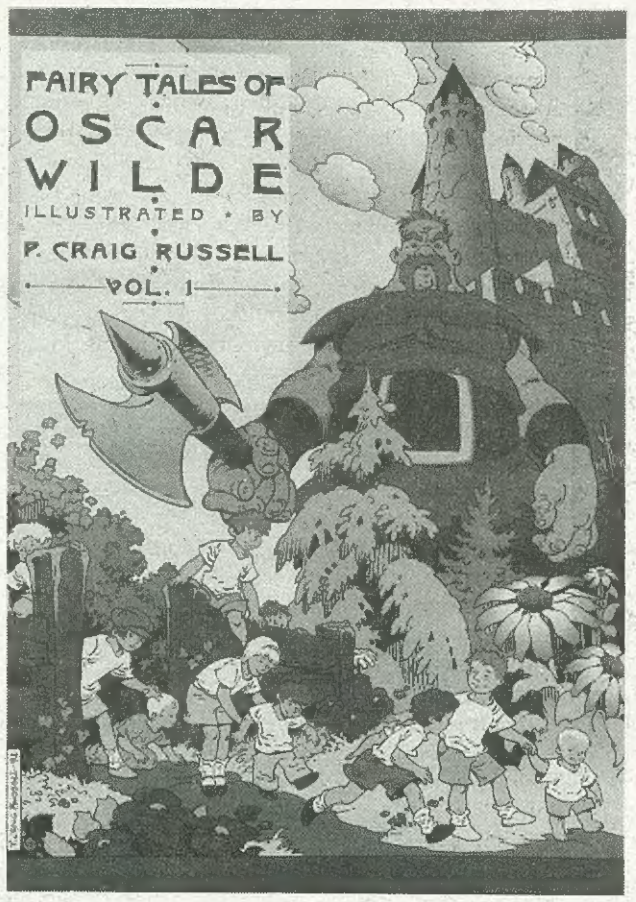
third bisque from DC, joining their already-sold-out Sandman and Batman figures.

Model builders and painters will enjoy Horizon Hobbies' line of superhero vinyl model kits, including Spider-Man, Iron Man, Hulk, Thing, Dr. Doom, Punisher, RoboCop, Batman, and more. These detailed figures are a great gift for the fan who has advanced well beyond basic model customizing. (Horizon, $29.95-$39.95@)

DC brings back a Howard Chaykin hero from two decades ago in a new book written by Chaykin and illustrated by fan-favorite Mike Mignola. ***Ironwolf: Fires of the Revolution*** offers an exciting continuation of a series fondly remembered by Chaykin fans. (DC, $24.95) Chaykin fans will also enjoy a gift of Howard Chaykin's adaptation of Alfred Bester's classic novel ***The Stars My Destination.*** While the first half of this was published years ago, the final half of the adaptation remained unpublished until Marvel offered this new edition of the entire story. ($21.95)

Several volumes spotlighting the art of H.R.Giger are available in English translations; the latest of this is ***H.R. Giger's Necronomicon II,*** a deluxe hardcover with oodles of full color reproductions. ($69.50)

One hardcover that will give a comics fan lovely hardcover dreams for many nights to come is ***The Photo-Journal Guide to Comic Books*** from Ernst Gerber. The two-volume set carries a $95 price tag, but for the money you get color photos of over 17,000 comic book covers, making this the most comprehensive comics photo reference work ever published. Two more volumes, featuring silver age Marvel covers from 1960 to the present, are also available at a very affordable $49 pricetag.



The movies inspire two great gift ideas this year: ***Star Trek: Debt of Honor*** (DC, $24.95) and ***Aliens: Tribes*** (Dark Horse, $24.95). The ***Star Trek*** book, written by comics favorite Chris Claremont and illustrated by Adam Hughes, spotlights Captain Kirk in a career-spanning adventure. ***Aliens: Tribes*** isn't actually a comic book at all; instead, it's a hardcover illustrated novella featuring two dozen paintings by Dave Dorman, accompanying an Aliens tale by Steve Bissette.

Maus: A Survivor's Tale is Art Spiegelman's retelling of the Holocaust in comic book terms; it follows a family of mice as they are victimized by Nazi-like cats. It's a remarkable story that brings home the humanity of the Holocaust without using a single human character. Both volumes are available in hardcover as well as trade paperback. (Pantheon, $17 @ HC, $12 @ PB)

Dave Sim has assembled the bulk of his 160+ issue *Cerebus* series in massive trade paperbacks. Each book features hundreds of pages of *Cerebus,* allowing fans to follow the character's development from a Conan spoof to a complex, tightly interwoven comic novel. The volumes available so far include ***Cerebus, High Society, Church & State I & II,*** and ***Jaka's Story***. *(Aardvark-Vanaheim, $25-$30 @)*

What could be more appropriate at Christmastime than a ***Santa Claus*** hardcover? Mike Ploog has produced a lovely graphic novel retelling of Frank Baum's famous Santa Claus story; if there's any comic gift that seems just perfect for gift-giving, this is it. (Tundra, $24.95)

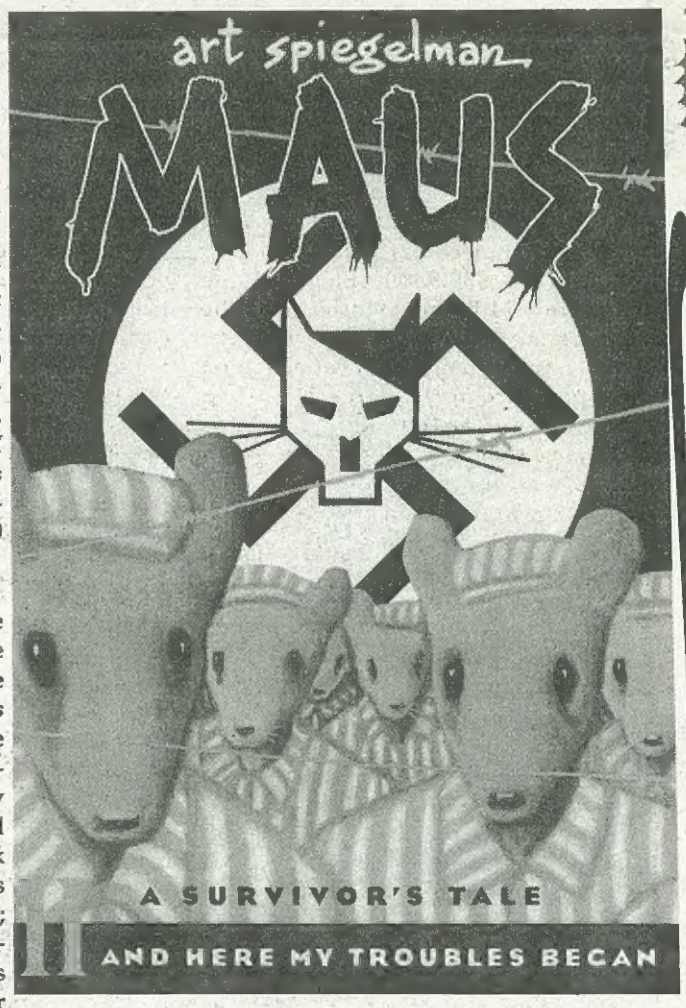
Fairy tales make a great gift for all ages—and thanks to NBM's lovely ***Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde*** volume illustrated by P. Craig Russell, you can give a gift of fairy tales that grownups will enjoy perusing. ($15.95)

If you want to experience Akira the way the series' original Japanese readers did—in hefty volumes almost 300 pages long—then Graphitti Designs' ***Akira*** hardcovers fit the bill perfectly. Each $49.95 volume reprints six full-color issues of Marvel's ***Akira*** series in a high-quality deluxe hardcover edition any fan would be proud to have on his shelf. Two volumes are available so far, with a third possibly available by Christmastime.

And while we're talking about Japanese art here, fans of Masamune Shirow will love to see ***Intron Depot*** under the tree on Christmas day. This hefty art collection from Dark Horse offers a comprehensive look at the color art of the man best known for his work on Appleseed and Orion. ($39.95)

Andrew Vacchs' ***Another Chance To Get It Right*** offers a powerful look at a vital issue—child abuse. Vacchs' has made child abuse the focal point of his written work, and this hardcover offers a series of essays and vignettes dealing with the issue, all illustrated by top talents from the comics field. (Dark Horse, $14.95)

These are only a few of the high-quality deluxe items available in your local comic shop this holiday season. In addition to the books mentioned here, comic shops often have a selection of fine deluxe items that are no longer in print from publishers. *Always* take a few minutes to talk to the helpful people at your comics shop before you decide what gift to give; their expertise can be very helpful in selecting just the right item in a price range you'll be happy with. They can also point out items that would be perfect accompaniments for any deluxe gift item you might be interested in. If you're shopping for a comics fan, the friendly folks at your comics shop could be the best "Santa's helpers" you can find.



Trade Paperbacks

A few years ago, if a comics fan missed a particularly popular story in his favorite comic, he was out of luck unless he could find it in high-priced backstock. Nowadays, though, comics companies regularly offer some of their very best comics material in trade paperback. A trade paperback is a proven winner as a gift item; it's generally a quality reprinting of some of the best comics material that publishers have to offer, and some of these books even contain new bonus material.

In the past few years, the number of trade paperbacks has grown enormously, making scores of gift choices available that are sure to suit any comics fan's tastes. And best of all, virtually every one of these books is priced at $20 or less, allowing you to give lots of reading enjoyment without having to trim your gift list!

If you want comics that educate as well as entertain, then there's no better gift than Larry Gonick's ***Cartoon History of the Universe.*** This comprehensive, meticulously-researched volume offers a thoroughly entertaining view of world history through the end of the Greco-Roman period; no other comic project has so perfectly blended fact and comics entertainment. ($14.95)

Archie has been a part of American history for fifty years now; in celebration of that fact, Archie offers two trade paperbacks. ***Archie Americana: The Best of the 1940's*** and ***Archie Americana: The Best of the 1950's*** feature a hundred pages of vintage Archie. ($9.95 @)

DC has several trade paperbacks that will appeal to the scores of Batman fans out there. ***The Greatest Batman Stories Ever Told*** ($15.95), ***The Greatest Batman Stories Ever Told Volume Two*** ($14.95), and ***The Greatest Joker Stories Ever Told*** ($14.95) reprint over 500 pages of classic Batman stories between the two volumes; both new Batman fans and old-time collectors are bound to find something they haven't previously read in these pages.

The Dark Knight Returns ($12.95) is a trade paperback reprinting all four issues of Frank Miller's perennially popular story of an older Batman returning to battle crime once again. ***Batman: Year One*** ($9.95) features a provocative look at Batman's first case, as presented by writer Frank Miller and artist Dave Mazzuchelli. ***Batman: Year Two*** ($9.95) offers artwork by fan-favorites Alan Davis and Todd McFarlane. ***Batman: The Cult*** ($14.95) pits Batman against a religious fanatic who manipulates his followers to gain control of Gotham City--and of Batman! ***Batman/Dracula: Red Rain*** pits Batman against Dracula in a superb Elseworlds story ($14.95). ***Batman: Prey*** and ***Batman: Gothic*** each reprint two five-issue story arcs from the hit ***Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight*** series. ($15.95@)

Batman: A Death in the Family is a bargain paperback collecting all four issues of the Death of Robin storyline into a single $3.95 edition. ***Batman: A Lonely Place of Dying*** ($3.95) reprints the five-part storyline that introduces Tim Drake, the new Robin, while ***Robin*** ($4.95) reprints the seven comic books that feature Drake's "trial by fire" as Batman's sidekick.

Speaking of bargains, here's the bargain of the year: ***Batman Vs. Predator,*** a $5.95 trade paperback reprinting last year's best-selling miniseries by Dave Gibbons and Adam & Andy Kubert. All the pin-ups by a plethora of guest-artists are included, making this an affordable gift that's sure to entertain.

Before Frank Miller made comics history with ***Dark Knight,*** he stirred things up with his first DC miniseries, ***Ronin.*** This innovative series is still available $12.95 trade paperback; think what a great gift this could be for someone who isn't familiar with Miller's non-superhero work! And for the mature readers, there's always the Dark Horse ***Sin City*** trade paperback, reprinting a fast-paced, very hard-edged Frank Miller noir story of murder and vengeance previously available only in ***Dark Horse Presents.*** ($15)

Watchmen is considered one of the most thought-provoking and mature superhero comics ever published. ***The Watchmen Trade Paperback*** ($16.95) reprints the entire twelve-issue series by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. If you want a gift that will make a comics fan think for a while once he's finished reading the book, then ***The Watchmen*** is the perfect gift!

Alan More's Swamp Thing stories are available in two volumes: ***Swamp Thing*** ($12.95) and ***Swamp Thing: Love and Death*** ($17.95). These stories transformed ***Swamp Thing*** into a sophisticated horror title, and are still highly praised today. The original Len Wein-Bernie Wrightson ***Swamp Thing*** series is also available in a handsome reprint edition that complements the Alan Moore material very nicely—and shows from where Moore drew his initial inspiration. ($19.95)

For the gift-giver on a budget, ***Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn*** ($4.95) is a fine gift. It reprints six issues of the limited series that prefaced the current Green Lantern series. For the fan with more diverse tastes, ***Secret Origins*** ($4.95) offers a look at the origins of a variety of popular DC heroes.

Lobo has risen to the top ranks of popularity among DC heroes; fans enjoy the exploits of this irascible alien. DC has compiled a holiday helping of Lobo exploits in two trade paperbacks. One volume, ***Lobo: The Last Czarnian*** reprints the ***Lobo*** limited series, while the, ***Lobo's Greatest Hits,*** other reprints selected Lobo gems from other books. ($9.95/$12.95)

This is Star Trek's 25th Anniversary year, so how about a gift of DC's ***Best of Star Trek*** trade paperback? This massive collection gathers together some of the best Star Trek tales from DC's original run of the series in the mid-80's, presenting some superb tales of Kirk, Spock, and the rest of the crew. ($19.95) ***Star Trek: The Modala Imperative*** offers in a single volume the historic two-miniseries storyline that united the crew of the original Enterprise and the Next Generation Enterprise ($19.95).

The Prisoner television show is discovering a new audience this year on the Arts and Entertainment channel; why not give ***The Prisoner*** ($19.95) trade paperback, which features a fully authorized sequel to the original television series?

Several other DC heroes are featured in trade paperback collections. ***Superman*** ($12.95) gathers together John Byrne's retelling of Superman's origin from the six-issue ***Man of Steel*** series. There's also a classic Superman collection, ***The Greatest Superman Stories Ever Told*** ($16.95), that covers the Man of Steel's 50+ year career.

Green Arrow: Last of the Longbow Hunters ($14.95) collects the three Mike Grell issues into a single volume that redefines the Emerald Archer for the 80's and the 90's. ***The Legion of Super-Heroes: The Great Darkness Saga*** ($17.95) collects a multi-issue epic storyline into a single volume, and includes a bonus foldout poster that reprints DC's Legion poster from several years ago. ***New Teen Titans: The Judas Contract*** ($14.95) reprints almost 200 pages of New Titans adventures by Marv Wolfman and George Perez.

Hawkman ($19.95) presents the six classic early Silver Age Hawkman stories from ***Brave & Bold;*** these stories later inspired Timothy Truman to create his revitalized version of Hawkman in his ***Hawkworld*** limited series, also available in trade paperback ($16.95).

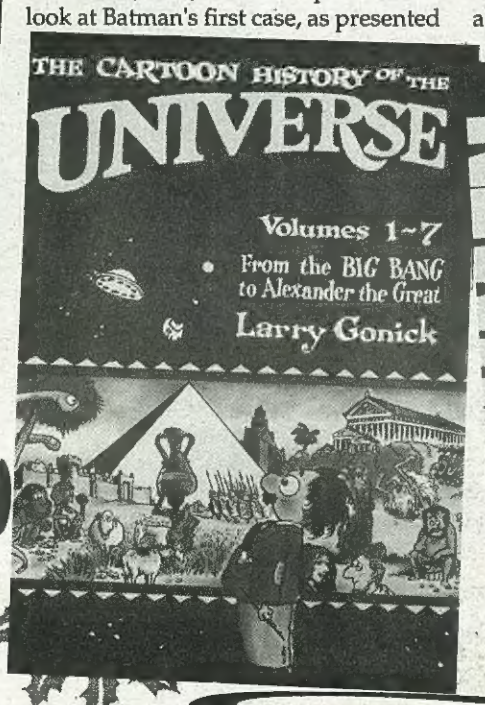
Justice League America and ***Justice League Europe*** are current fan favorites for DC; fans who didn't have a chance to enjoy the first issues of the Justice League series that inspired these two titles can relive the excitement on Christmas day with the ***Justice League: A New Beginning*** trade paperback ($12.95) reprinting ***Justice League #1-7*** with art by fan favorite Kevin Maguire.

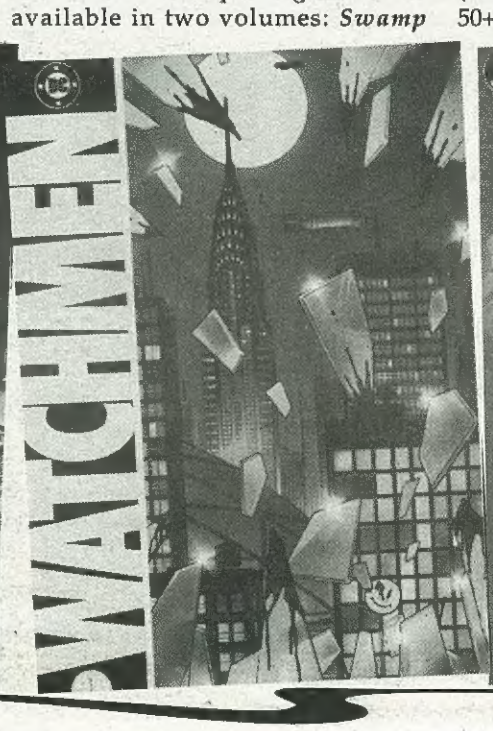
The Essential Showcase Volume One offers a sampling of some of the greatest Showcase stories from the history-making series' first three years; included are the first solo appearances of the Flash, Adam Strange, Space Ranger, the Challengers of the Unknown, and Lois Lane. ($19.95)

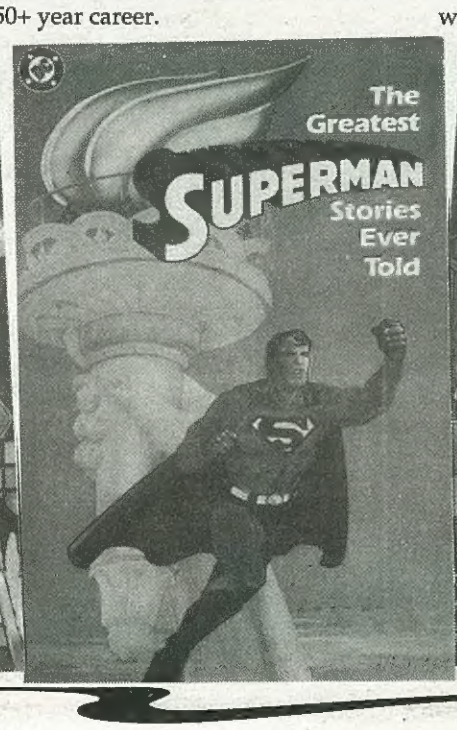
The first six issues of ***Deathstroke the Terminator*** are collected into one volume, ***Deathstroke the Terminator: Full Cycle.*** This trade paperback also includes those eye-catching Mike Zeck covers. ($12.95)

Grant Morrison's absurdist fantasy run on ***Doom Patrol*** has changed the direction of this superhero title forever;since the original issues are quite hard to find nowadays, ***Doom Patrol: Crawling From the Wreckage*** is a much easier gift to track down. This trade paperback reprints Morrison's first story arc, which is great entertainment for those looking for more than standard superhero fare. ($19.95)

Mike Mignola is a major star today, but when he illustrated DC's ***Cosmic***







Trade Paperbacks

Odyssey, he was just establishing himself as a major talent in the comics field. This all-star crossover extravaganza is a great gift for art fans who enjoy Mignola's current work. ($19.95)

Camelot 3000 ($12.95) is a surefire holiday hit for readers who enjoy Arthurian legends and epic adventures. This science-fiction saga brings Arthur and his knights into the alien-controlled world of the year 3000.

The Shadow was given an updating by Howard Chaykin a few years ago; that four-issue storyline is made available in a handy bookshelf edition, ***The Shadow: Blood and Judgment*** ($12.95). This is a great gift for older fans who recall the original pulp hero with fondness. ***Private Files of the Shadow*** ($19.95) reprints the 1970's Shadow comic book stories illustrated by top artist Michael W. Kaluta.

Sandman has become one of DC's most popular comics; many fans enjoy the surreal fantasy element of this mature, sophisticated title. DC has reprinted the first twenty issues of Sandman in three trade paperbacks. ***Sandman: A Doll's House*** ($12.95) reprints the most acclaimed Sandman storyline in one volume, while ***Sandman: Preludes and Nocturnes*** ($14.95) reprints the earliest issues of the series;***Sandman: Dream Country*** ($14.95) reprints issues 17 through 20; and ***Sandman: Season of Mists*** ($19.95) reprints that popular Sandman story arc from a couple of years ago. !

Animal Man ($19.95) reprints the earliest issues of this series about Buddy Baker, the man with animal powers; it includes a brilliant tale inspired by the Road Runner cartoons. ***Black Orchid*** ($16.95) reprints the three-issue painted miniseries by Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean; Batman and Swamp Thing appear in this book. ***Catwoman*** ($9.95) also features Batman in a minor role, but the real star of this trade paperback is the ever-popular Catwoman herself.

Every young fan who watches television can identify the ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles;*** many of them would enjoy a chance to read the early issues of the comic book that inspired the animated series and the films. ***Collected Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Volumes 1-6*** ($6.95-$16.95) reprint almost two dozen issues of the acclaimed comic book, beginning with the ultra-valuable first appearance of the Turtles from 1986.

Elfquest was the first big comics success in trade paperback. The new Fathertree Press editions collecting the entire Elfquest saga in eight trade paperbacks. These volumes not only reprint the original ***Elfquest*** stories but also the ***Elfquest: Siege at Blue Mountain*** series, all in full color with art unavailable in trade paperback before. ($16.95-$17.95)

Fantagraphics offers a variety of quality trade paperbacks that are fine gifts for older readers with broader tastes. ***The Complete Robert Crumb*** (eight volumes, $14.95 each) offers a trade paperback history of this influential underground comics artist. ***Reaper of Love*** ($11.95) offers a smorgasbord of horror work by noted horror artist Bernie Wrightson. ***Usagi Yojimbo,*** now available in four trade paperback volumes ($10.95-$14.95) is a funny animal samurai story by Stan Sakai that will bring a chuckle to manga fans when it shows up under the Christmas tree.

Some of the most popular material that Fantagraphics offers, though, is the ***Love and Rockets*** series by the Hernandez Brothers. This material is available in a series of eight trade paperbacks ($12.95-$14.95); there is also a ***Love and Rockets Sketchbook*** ($19.95) that is a great gift for fans who have the original stories but haven't seen just how the series developed artistically.

Viz Comics offers two trade paperback series in the Japanese manga format; these books are smaller than the average trade paperback, thicker, and have dustwrappers like an American hardcover. ***Mai the Psychic Girl*** (4 volumes, $16.95 each) and ***Grey*** (2 volumes, $16.95 each) are compact packages filled with great story and art sure to please a manga fan. ***Gunhed*** ($16.95) is a full-color graphic album reprinting the Japanese manga series that inspired a hit live-action Japanese film. Several volumes of ***Crying Freeman*** ($16.95@) present the story of a man trained for only one thing: murder.

The American Trade Paperback features the popular limited series created by Mark Verheiden. This is a great gift for Captain America fans who might enjoy a different rendition of a patriotic hero. ($5.95)

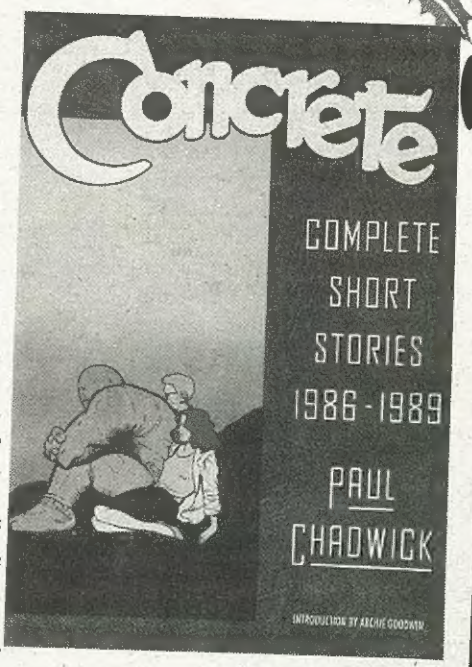
Dark Horse Comics has a number of offerings that should appeal to fans of comics, movies, and science fiction. ***The Aliens Trade Paperback*** ($11.95) reprints the first Aliens limited series; ***Aliens Book Two*** ($12.95) reprints the second limited series, highlighted by airbrush artist Denis Beauvais' stunning paintings; ***Aliens: Earth War*** ($13.95) reprints the third limited series, also in full color; and ***Aliens Vs. Predator*** ($19.95) is a great gift, since if features some new pages and some pages in color for the first time ever.

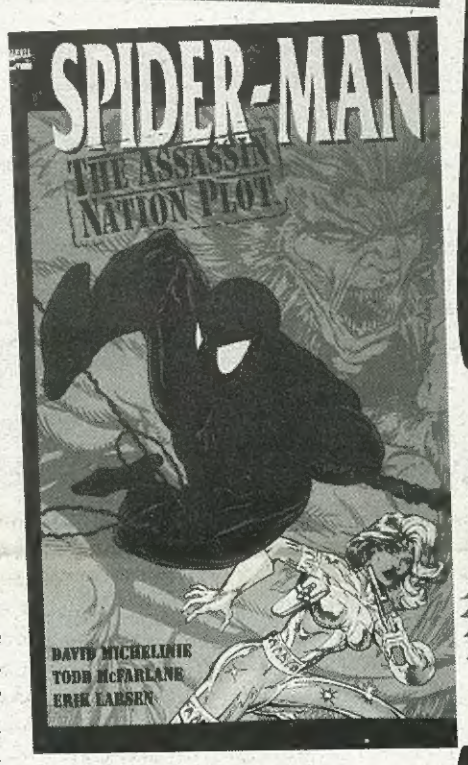
Dark Horse has other film projects available as well, including ***Preadator Volume One,*** reprinting the Predator mini-series that is remarkably similar to the Predator 2 film (the miniseries came first, by the way). ***Terminator: Tempest*** ($12.95) reprints Dark Horse's first ***Terminator*** limited series, which brings an assault team of Terminators back to modern America.

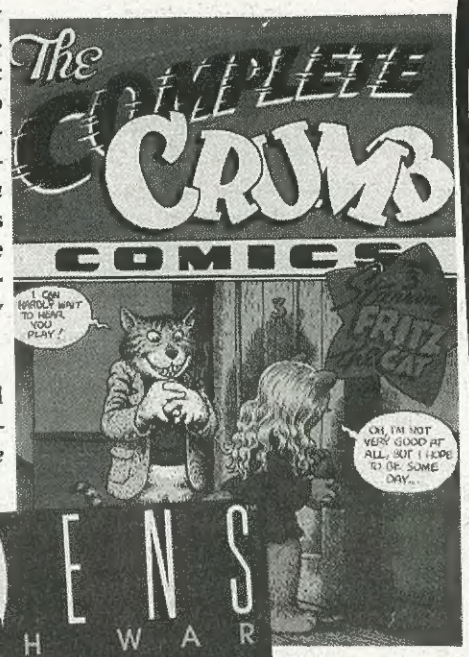
Dark Horse's Japanese-manga series ***Outlanders*** is so popular that it's hard to find early issues--but you can make a gift of them thanks to two ***Outlanders*** trade paperbacks, each of which features some new material in addition to the hefty helping of early reprints. ($9.95-$10.95)

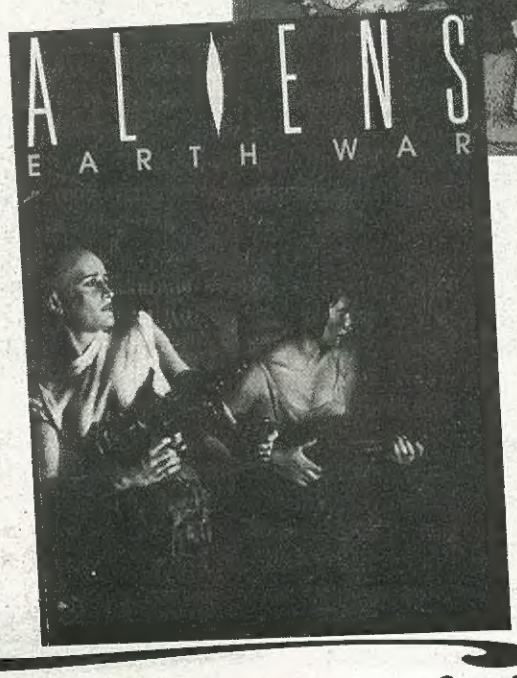
Concrete: The Complete Short Stories 1986-1989 ($12.95) gathers together all the Concrete short pieces from the pages of ***Dark Horse Presents.*** Fans who want to see some of the other quality material that has appeared in that comic book--including Black Cross, Trekker, and more--will enjoy ***The Best of Dark Horse Presents Volume 1*** ($5.95) and ***The Best of Dark Horse Presents Volume 2*** ($8.95). Also available is a new collection celebrating Dark Horse's recent five-year anniversary; ***Dark Horse Presents Fifth Anniversary Special*** ($9.95) features new material a wide assortment of the material that made ***Dark Horse Presents*** the most successful anthology comic on the market today.

Japanese manga fans will be thrilled with Eclipse's trade paperback collection ***Appleseed Book One: The***









Trade Paperbacks

Promethean Challenge, Appleseed Book Two: Prometheus Unbound, and ***Appleseed Book Three*** ($12.95-$13.95). These books feature high-tech action in a science fiction setting.

Dirty Pair Book One: Biohazards and ***Dirty Pair Book Two: Dangerous Acquaintances*** reprint two separate Dirty Pair limited series. Don't let the name mislead you; there's nothing "dirty" about the science fiction adventures of these two attractive young women. ($12.95@)

Eclipse's most successful trade paperback is ***The Hobbit,*** a painted adaptation of the classic J.R.R. Tolkien tale ($12.95). Chuck Dixon and David Wenzel have captured the magic of this fantasy tale in words and pictures; everyone who's ever thrilled over Tolkien's original work will appreciate this thoughtful gift.

The Vampire Lestat is a massive comics adaptation of Anne Rice's famous vampire novel; horror fans will enjoy the fully painted adaptation that captures the style and vitality of Rice's original work. This is a huge trade paperback containing twelve comics' worth of material, so it'll offer hours of reading pleasure. ($19.95)

Harris Publications has put together two collections of material from the horror glory days of Warren Magazines. ***Vampirella*** reprints a lengthy storyline that paves the way for the current ***Vampirella*** limited series. ***Creepy*** offers a heaping helping of horror tales produced by some of the biggest names in comics (these stories are very much in the same vein as the popular ***Tales From the Crypt*** HBO television series). ($12.95@)

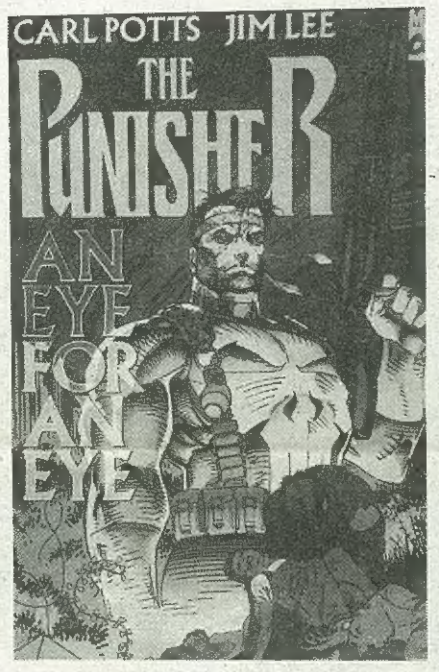
Superhero fans always enjoy a parody of their favorite sort of comics, and that's just what ***The Tick Omnibus*** and ***The Tick Omnibus Too*** offers them. Ben Englund's ***Tick*** is a superb superhero satire, filled action, wit, and silliness enough to entertain comics readers of all ages. ($13.95)

No company has more trade paperbacks on the shelves than Marvel Comics. The definitive Marvel trade paperback series, ***Handbook of the Marvel Universe*** ($6.95 and $7.95 per volume, ten volumes available), is a great cornerstone to a Marvel trade paperback library. This series offers a handy reference to the Marvel heroes and villains, complete with background information, power data, and more.

Comic fans often discuss what they consider to be the best comic book stories ever, but ***The Best of Marvel Comics*** trade paperback gives them an opportunity to see which stories the comic book creators consider the epitome of great comic book storytelling. ($12.95)

Longshot is a very expensive series in its original comics editions because it introduced fan-favorite Art Adams to the comics world. You won't have to pay big bucks if you want to give this series as a gift, though, because Marvel has made it available as a $16.95 trade paperback, offering the entire series on better-quality paper.

Longshot isn't the *only* mutant whose exploits can be found in trade paperback. ***Wolverine*** ($9.95) reprints the Chris Claremont-Frank Miller series that is an all-time favorite among X-Men fans. ***Captain Britain*** is a member of Marvel's mutant team Excalibur; he's also the star of a trade paperback reprinting almost 200 pages of solo adventure never before available in America. ($14.95) ***New Mutants: Demon Bear Saga*** ($15.95) reprints the first Chris Claremont- Bill Sienkiewicz storyline from ***New Mutants.*** This is the book that was recently transformed into the best-selling X-Force title. ***Cable*** reprints the earliest New Mutants appearances of the mutant who is second in popularity only to Wolverine himself ($15.95).



Of course, the X-Men as a group are the most popular comics characters ever—and they star in a number of trade paperbacks. ***X-Men: Phoenix Saga*** ($12.95) is a 192-page trade paperback reprinting nine issues of the X-Men by Chris Claremont and John Byrne, culminating in the death of Phoenix. This storyline remains the most popular X-Men saga ever presented.

X-Men: The Asgardian Wars trade paperback ($14.95) reprints 224 pages of mutant action bringing together the X-Men, Alpha Flight, and the New Mutants. This book features art by two fan-favorites, Paul Smith and Art Adams. making it doubly enjoyable for comics art fans.

X-Men in the Savage Land ($9.95)collects the four ***Marvel Fanfare*** issues teaming up fan-favorites the X-Men and Spider-Man in an adventure at the center of the earth. ***X-Men: Days of Future Present*** ($14.95) is a time-spanning X-Men adventure reprinted from 1990's mutant annuals. ***X-Men: From the Ashes*** reprints the storyline that brought the popular character Phoenix back to the team ($14.95). Of course, ***X-Men Versus Fantastic Four*** ($12.95) is just what the title promises... And ***X-Men: X-Tinction Agenda*** reprints the landmark multi-title crossover series that is one of the most popular mutant story arcs ever. ($19.95)

This year, Infinity War excited fans everywhere; for fans who'd like to see how the story began, there could be no better gift than ***The Infinity Gauntlet,*** a massive volume reprinting the initial six-issue storyline. And if it's a superhero extravaganza you want to see, then there's always ***Secret Wars,*** a massive book reprinting all twelve issues of the series that first introduced Spidey's black costume (which, in turn, led to the introduction of Venom). (24.95)

they may not be mutants, but the New Warriors have become one of Marvel's most popular teams, largely because of the book's high-quality story and art. The early issues have escalated in price rapidly, so the ***New Warriors*** trade paperback, reprinting the book's most expensive issues, will be a welcome sight come Christmas day. ($15.95)

In the 1970's and early 1980's, Marvel produced a small number of crossover comics that featured heroes from both companies (Superman and Spider-Man together, the New Teen Titans and the X-Men, and so on). Now all those crossover stories have been reprinted in one collector's volume, ***Marvel-DC Crossover Classics*** ($17.95). There are also two commemorative posters available to accompany the trade paperbacks ($5.95@).

Marvel's ever-popular Spider-Man stars in several paperbacks of his own. ***Amazing Spider-Man: Kraven's Last Hunt*** reprints the six-part "Death of Kraven the Hunter" storyline ($15.95). ***Spider-Man Vs. Venom*** ($9.95) reprints Todd McFarlane material from over a half-dozen different Spider-Man comics; the entire story of Spidey's first confrontation with Venom is included here. McFarlane is still hot enough to melt a white Christmas, so you can't go wrong with this gift. ***Spider-Man's Wedding*** features two different versions of the wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, one from the comics and one from the little-seen comic strip ($12.95). ***Spider-Man: The Assassination Plot*** reprints David Micheline's final story arc with Spidey artist Todd McFarlane ($12.95), while ***Spider-Man: Torment*** reprints McFarlane's first solo story arc from the adjectiveless Spider-Man comic. ($12.95)

Todd McFarlane is best known for his work on Spider-Man, but he also created an outstanding run of stories for ***The Incredible Hulk. Ground Zero*** ($12.95) reprints a long storyline from those McFarlane issues.

Few heroes have undergone as many costume changes as Iron Man; Marvel chronicles those many alterations in ***The Many Armors of Iron Man,*** a volume that looks back at Iron Man's various armors in the past and looks ahead to upcoming armor designs. ($15.95)

The Punisher is one of Marvel's most popular heroes today. His popularity began with his five-issue miniseries by Steven Grant, Mike Zeck and John Beatty. ***The Punisher*** ($12.95) reprints all five of those issues into a single trade paperback with a new painted cover. ***Punisher & Wolverine: African Saga*** ($5.95) reprints the two-part story teaming up two of the most popular heroes of all time. ***Punisher: Eye For an Eye*** ($9.95) reprints early Punisher adventures illustrated by current fan-favorite artist Jim Lee.

Daredevil: Born Again features the destruction and rebuilding of Daredevil as told in a great series of stories by Frank Miller and Dave Mazzuchelli ($8.95). ***Elektra Saga*** reprints the history of Elektra as told by the character's creator, Frank Miller ($16.95).

Akira, the creation of Japanese comics great Katsuhiro Otomo, has been very successful for Marvel. With early issues proving almost impossible to find, any fan would appreciate a gift of ***Akira Trade Paperback Volumes One*** through ***Four*** ($14.95@). Each volume reprints three issues of ***Akira.***

Before Marvel became famous for its superhero books, they had established a niche for themselves with their horror/monster books. ***Monster Masterworks*** ($12.95) reprints a heaping helping of these horror tales by the likes of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Dick Ayers, and others.

Iron Man: Armor Wars is a grand armored adventure that pits Iron Man against virtually every other armored character in the Marvel Universe. This adventure has remained one of Iron Man's most popular storylines, and inspired a sequel not too long ago. ($12.95)

Nick Fury Vs. SHIELD is the mini-series that inspired the current hit ***SHIELD*** series. The entire mini-series is available in a single-volume trade paperback, complete with a new cover by Bob Larkin. ($15.95)

Captain America: War and Remembrance ($12.95) reprints every John Byrne issue of Captain America, along with a few pages from a never-completed Byrne Captain America story. Most fans agree that these tales were among the best Captain America adventures ever created.

All these holiday choices! And this list is still far from complete! If you want to know more about what's available, talk to Santa's helpers at your local comics shop and see what they can do to make this the most memorable Christmas ever!

Books About Comics

Comics fans are often interested in their hobby to such a degree that they want to read *about* comics as much as they want to read the comics themselves. There are a number of books that focus on comics as a hobby, or on the lives of noteworthy comics creators.

The most popular comic book company is Marvel; that's why ***Marvel: Five Fabulous Decades of the World's Greatest Comics*** Company (Abrams, $45) is likely to be a much-appreciated comic-related gift. This lavish, oversized volume is chock full of history, giving fans behind-the-scenes looks at the ups and downs of Marvel from the Golden Age to the present. Never-before-published art, rare sketches, memorabilia, and colorful anecdotes make this a fascinating read; it'll be the first gift that any Marvel fan picks up on Christmas evening.

And if we're talking popular characters, then what about everyone's favorite teenager, Archie? ***Archie: His First 50 Years*** ($29.95) shows how Archie and the rest of the Riverdale Gang have changed over the years. It's delightful reading for anyone who has ever chuckled over an Archie comic.

Fans who want to read about particular types of comics will find just what they want in two volumes of a continuing series from Taylor Books. ***Taylor History of Comics Volume One: Horror Comics*** ($21.95) ***Taylor History of Comics Volume Two: Superheroes of the Silver Age*** ($24.95), and ***Taylor History of Comics Volume Three: Science Fiction Comics*** ($24.95) offer illustration-filled studies of two of the most popular comic book genres.

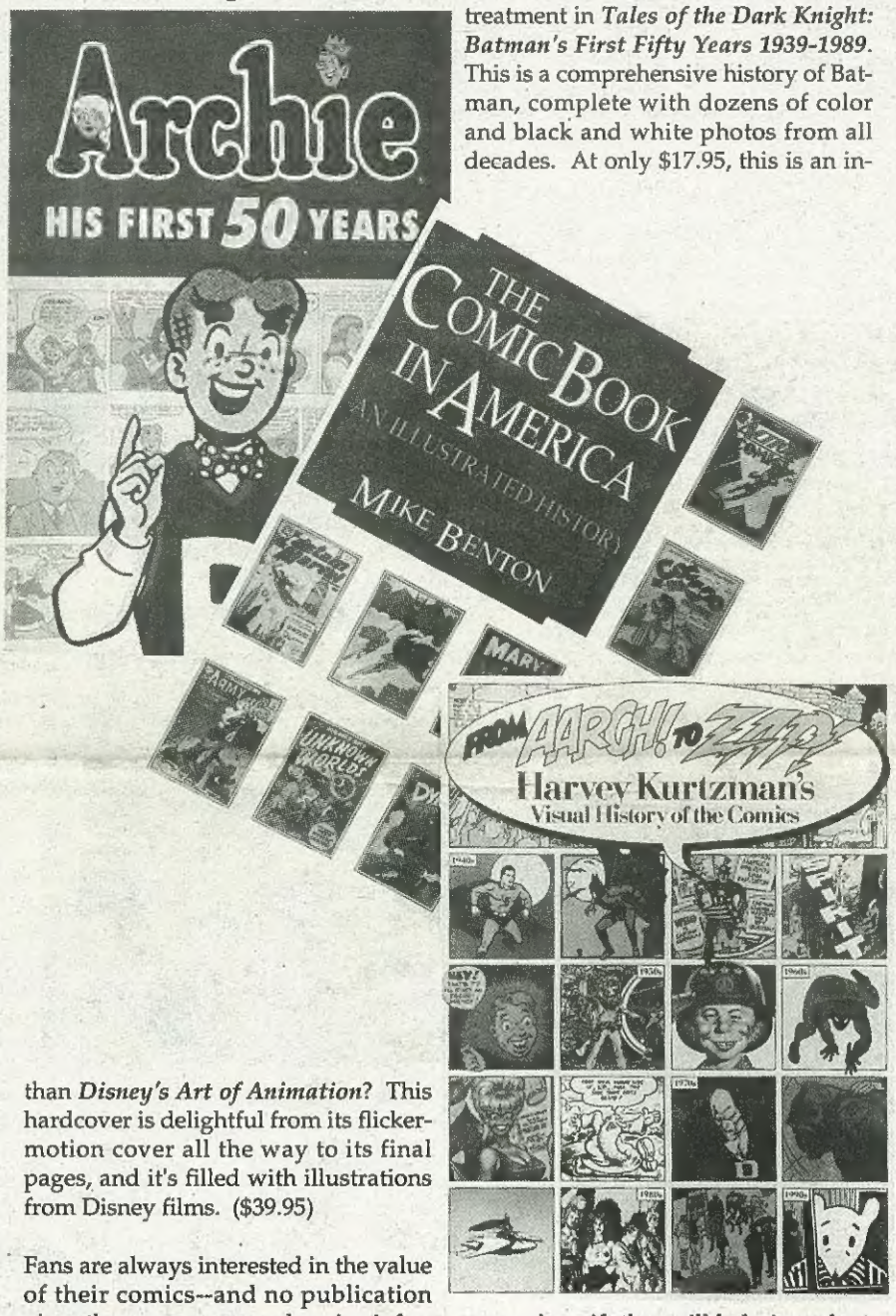
The Comic Book In America: An Illustrated History by Mike Benton is a must-have essential for any hardcore comics fan's library. This is a look at the history of the medium, filled with over 500 full color illustrations of comics new and old. The book traces the medium from 1933 to the present, and covers the entire field, from funny-animal to super-hero to genre comics. At only $29.95, this is one of the best gifts you can give a comics fan for the holidays.

Harvey Kurtzman is famous as a comics artist, writer, and creator; he was the mastermind behind ***Mad***, among other humor magazines. Since he's been involved in the industry for so long now, it's only natural that he should have quite an insightful knowledge of its history; he shares that knowledge with readers in ***From Argh! to Zap!: An Illustrated History of Comics.***

Another comics writer and artist, Jim Steranko, also created some outstanding books of comics history almost two decades ago. ***Steranko's History of Comics Volume 1 and*** 2 ($10 and $12 respectively) look at pulp heroes, Golden Age stars, and the creators who formed the comics industry. No one has offered a more comprehensive, insightful look at the early days of the industry than Steranko.

Joe Simon is a creator who was there in the very beginning, helping make the Golden Age a bit more Golden with his and Jack Kirby's creations like Captain America, the Newsboy Legion, and the Boy Commandos. He details his lifetime in the comics industry in ***The Comic Book Makers,*** and it's fascinating behind-the-scenes reading for anyone who has an interest in the personalities behind the comics. ($18.95)

With all the interest in animation that the video release of Fantasia has generated, what better gift could there be than ***Disney's Art of Animation***? This hardcover is delightful from its flicker-motion cover all the way to its final pages, and it's filled with illustrations from Disney films. ($39.95)



Fans are always interested in the value of their comics--and no publication gives them more comprehensive information about more books than the ***Overstreet Price Guide 22nd Edition*** ($15). This book also makes a remarkable useful checklist-index, even for the fan who has no plans to buy or sell back issues!

Marvel Comics offers a great trade paperback aimed at would-be comics artists, ***How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way.*** The book is a wonderful reference for the comics fan who wants to become an artist some day. It demonstrates all the basics of comic book illustration ($11.95).

There is no doubt that a true master of comics art is Will Eisner. Thankfully, Eisner is willing to share his insight into comics art with fans everywhere in the brilliant ***Comics and Sequential Art,*** which Eclipse has kept in print so that would-be comics artists can find out how it's done. This book discusses a number of things about design and composition that ***How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way*** never touches on. ($18.95)

For the fan of Japanese animation and Japanese comics, ***Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics*** by Frederik L. Schotdt is a fine reference. Heavy on text, photos, and art samples, this book could make the season very jolly for fans of Japanese comic books. ($16.95)

Batman has also received historical treatment in ***Tales of the Dark Knight: Batman's First Fifty Years 1939-1989***. This is a comprehensive history of Batman, complete with dozens of color and black and white photos from all decades. At only $17.95, this is an inexpensive gift that will help introduce new Batman fans to the hero's multi-faceted history.

The creator of Batman has also told his story, and you can read all about it in ***Batman and Me*** by Bob Kane. This trade paperback offers an insightful look into Kane's creation of the hero, the development of Batman, and the early days of the comics industry. It also reprints hard-to-find Batman stories and art. ($14.95)

The Great Comic Book Artists by Ron Goulart is an informative collection of biographical sketches about famous comics talents. With its brief biographies and art samples, it's a mini-course in comics that will entertain and educate. There are two volumes currently available ($12.95 per volume). Goulart is also the author of ***Over 50 Years of American Comics,*** a hefty history of the medium ($29.95).

Stabur Home Video has created an entire series of entertaining videotapes featuring conversations between host Stan Lee and some of the greats in the comic book field, including Todd McFarlane, Bob Kane, Jim Lee, Rob Liefeld, John Romita (both Sr. & Jr.!), and many others. These entertaining tapes show how these artists work and offer behind-the-scenes advice for novice illustrators—as well as providing a chance to hear popular creators talk about their creations. ($19.95@)

Most comics fans have no idea how much work an artist puts into mastering his craft; a book that will give them a little insight into the process (plus a lot of entertainment) is ***The Steve Rude Sketchbook*** from Kitchen Sink ($14.95). This book gives fans a peek into the sketchbook of one of the most talented artists in the field.

The Love and Rockets Sketchbook also offers behind-the-scenes developmental artwork; this volume features the work of the award-winning Hernandez Brothers ($19.95).

Kent Williams: Drawings and Monotypes offers a peek into the sketchbook of the talented painter who was half of the art team of Havok & Wolverine: Meltdown. ($9.95)

Acclaimed French artist Moebius is the focus of ***The Art of Moebius*** ($19.95), a trade paperback offering an overview of the many facets of Moebius' career.

Berni Wrightson has been one of comics' most popular artists for over two decades now; ***Berni Wrightson: A Look Back*** carries readers back to the beginnings of Wrightson's career to present a glimpse at some of the artwork that made him such a fan favorite. Any art fan will be thrilled to find this hefty volume under the tree come Christmas. ($34.95)

Prehistory of the Far Side, Gary Larson's latest collection, is a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at how Larson created some of the most-enjoyed humor panels of all time. It also features rejected ideas, commentary, and some of Larson's favorite strips. ($12.95)

The Encyclopedia of Super-Heroes and ***The Encyclopedia of Super-Villains*** are *just* what they sound like: books that feature over 2500 comic book characters, giving data about the heroes, the villains, and their history. ($19.95 each)

Chuck Amuck is a look at the career of animator Chuck Jones, known for his work on some of the best Warner Brothers cartoons of all times. It's entertaining and informative, and should be a most appreciated gift. ($19.95)

And if this isn't enough of a selection of holiday goodies about the comics field, you can find still more at your local comic shop. Talk to the friendly people there and let them know what sort of thing you're looking for; they'll take over from there and point out a variety of great gift ideas on their shelves.

Comic Strip Reprints

Comics fans often overlook the original comics art form: the comic strip. Comic *strips* predate the comic *book* by decades. Many of the best strips of both today and yesterday can be found in handy trade paperbacks and hardcover anthologies that can open up an all-new world of comics reading.

The most quirky and offbeat comic strip today is a single-panel piece of zaniness entitled ***The Far Side*** by Gary Larson. There are nine separate smaller volumes available, but the packages that are best for gift-giving are the larger ***Far Side Gallery*** trade paperbacks, each offering most of the contents of three of the smaller books in a larger format complete with some color pages. Also available in ***The Prehistory of the Far Side***, a look back at the creation of the series, complete with entertaining commentary by Larson himself. ($9.95 for the ***Gallery*** volumes; $5.95 for the smaller collections; $12.95 for ***A Prehistory of the Far Side***)

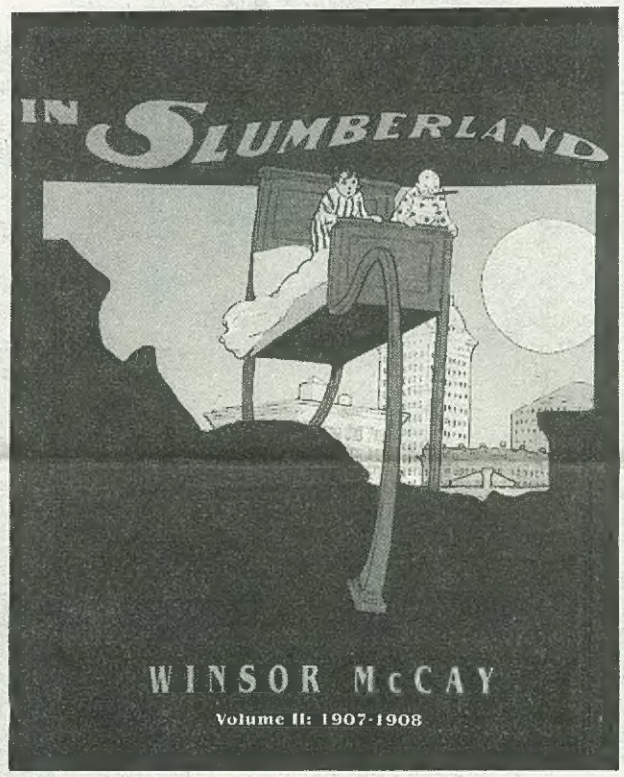
Closing in fast on ***The Far Side*** in terms of popularity is the clever ***Calvin and Hobbes***. Bill Watterson's story, focusing on a young boy and his stuffed tiger that becomes real when no one else is around, has become popular with almost everyone and is widely acclaimed as the best new strip in the past decade. The perfect gift package, though, is ***The Essential Calvin and Hobbes***, ***The Authoritative Calvin & Hobbes***, and ***The Definitive Calvin & Hobbes***, each of which offers the contents of two books plus all-new color stories done just for these editions ($12.95 @).

Bloom County. Berke Breathed's humor strip featuring Opus, Bill the Cat, Steve Dallas and many others may not exist in the comic strip pages of your newspaper, but the strip lives on in comic shops. There are seven volumes of Bloom County strips, ranging in price from $6.95 to $12.95. An extra-long volume covering the latter part of Breathed's Bloom County run, ***Classics of Western Literature*** ($12.95), is perfect for fans who'd love a "best-of" volume. For fans who want to see what Breathed has been doing since Bloom County's demise, there's the first full-color ***Outland*** collection, ***Politically Incorrect***... ($9.95)

Teevee fans know Matt Groening as the creator of ***The Simpsons***, but that's not his only creation. A very insightful comic strip that inspires comments like "That's right!" in everyone who reads it is Matt Groening's ***Life in Hell. Love Is Hell, Work Is Hell, Childhood is Hell*** and ***School Is Hell*** are great gifts at $6.95 each. ***The Big Book of Hell*** is the latest deluxe collection of Groening's strips. ($15.95)

But while all these newer strips make for great reading, the strips the comics fan will probably enjoy most are older strips. The premiere adventure strip, ***Prince Valiant***, is currently being reprinted in a series of oversized trade paperbacks in full color. Sixteen volumes are available right now, and Fantagraphics continues to publish the books right on schedule. These volumes offer some of Hal Foster's best material in a size that admirably presents the art as it should be seen. ($14.95-$16.95)

Fantagraphics is also the publisher of the stunning ***Complete Little Nemo in Slumberland*** series, which has set for itself the ambitious goal of reprinting the entire ***Little Nemo*** run in full color. These oversized volumes, priced at $35 each, are painstakingly reproduced from hard-to-find Sunday pages; once you see them, you'll wonder why color newspaper comics can't look this good today! Four volumes are available so far, with plans to continue the series with other Winsor McCay ***Nemo*** material.



E.C. Segar's ***Popeye*** is available in a series of quality reprints. This strip is much more complex and entertaining than the ***Popeye*** cartoons (which are pretty darned entertaining in their own right!). Eight volumes are available so far, at $12.95 to $16.95 each.

Kitchen Sink is engaged in a grand plan to reprint the entire run of Al Capp ***Li'L Abner*** strips in trade paperback. They've released fourteen volumes so far, each reprinting a year's worth of daily strips. Each volume also includes fascinating background information about Capp and his comic strip work. ($16.95 each)

Nancy has been described by some as the quintessential gag strip. Kitchen Sink is offering collections of Nancy strips, organized by subject; the first three available are ***Nancy Eats Food***, ***Hippies, Beatniks, and Bums/Artist and Con Artists*** and ***How Sluggo Survives.*** ($7.95 each)

Flash Gordon, the archetypal interplanetary adventurer, has returned in full color in Kitchen Sink's new chronological reprint series. ***Alex Raymond's Flash Gordon in Color Volume One*** (HC only, $34.95) and ***Volume Two***, ***Three***, and ***Four***, (TPB, $19.95 each) offer a year's worth of the legendary strip, shot from the more-than-half-century-old original strips to capture the glorious color detail.

Every comics fan knows Spider-Man; they may not know, however, that there's a trade paperback reprinting the ***Spider-Man*** comic strip that many Spidey fans have never seen. ($9.95)

Speaking of superhero comic strips, how about the ever-popular Batman? In the Golden Age of Comics, the Batman comic strip was created by the same great creators who turned out the comic book stories; thanks to Kitchen Sink and DC Comics, you can give your favorite comics fan a four-volume series reprinting every Golden Age Batman strip ever done, along with interviews, promotional art, and more. Each of the three volumes of ***Batman: The Dailies*** is priced at $12.95, while the full-color ***Batman: The Sundays*** is priced at $19.95.

Terry and the Pirates was a classic adventure-aviation strip from the 1930's and 1940's. NBM is reprinting these quality strips in graphic album format ($5.95 per volume); they are also available in slipcased editions. NBM is also offering ***Wash Tubbs and Cap'n Easy*** in both high quality hardcover and trade paperback editions ($37.50/ $16.95).

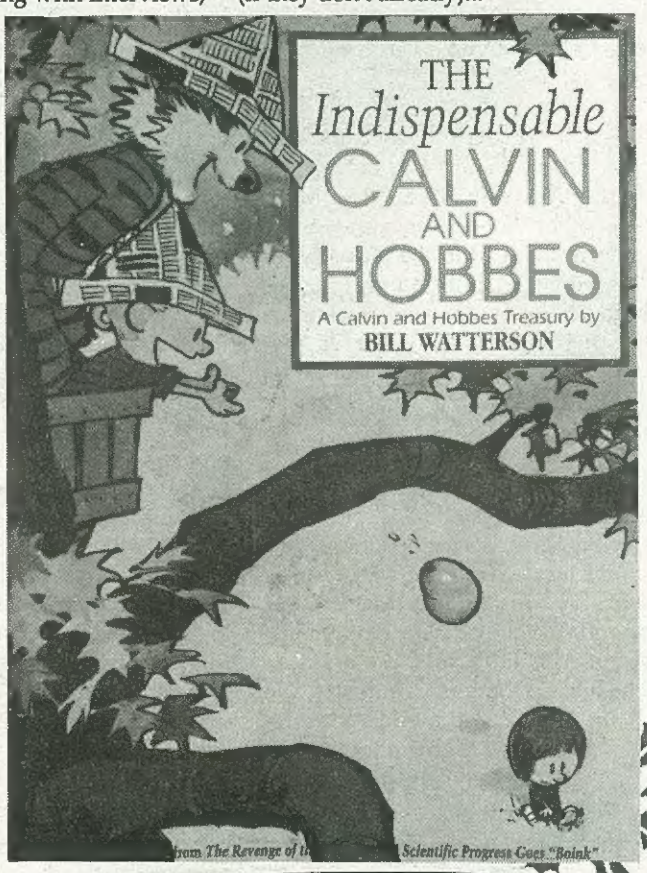
Kitchen Sink offers a reprinting of the entire Dashiell Hammett-Alex Raymond ***Secret Agent X-9*** comic strip series that's for Christmas gift-giving. ***Secret Agent X-9: Welcome to Hades, 1934*** ($13.95) reprints the entire 1934-35 run of this strip, including a few non-Hammett strips that finish off the storyline. ***Secret Agent X-9*** predates Raymond's ***Flash Gordon***, which is *also* being reprinted by Kitchen Sink.

Did you know that there was, briefly, a Wizard of Oz comic strip? Even better, it was written by L. Frank Baum, the same talent who created Oz and its inhabitants. ***Lost Comics of Oz*** reprints the entire run of this almost-forgotten turn-of-the-century strip featuring an all-but-unseen Frank Baum original tale. ($14.95)

Tarzan introduces a new reprint series from NBM; these handsome hardcovers reprint a year's worth of classic Tarzan comic strips from the 1930's. This is considered some of the best comic strip art of all time—and the character is pretty popular, too!... ($34.95)

For many years, Don Martin was one of the most popular contributors to Mad Magazine; more recently, Martin has gone on to create his own comic strip. ***Don Martin's Droll Book***, a new title from Dark Horse, offers more than a hundred pages of Don Martin zaniness that'll have everyone fondly recalling their attempts to draw those square-jawed Don Martin characters for the first time... ($14.95)

There are many other strip reprints available, including volumes of ***Garfield, Peanuts, Wizard of Id, Fox Trot, For Better or Worse,*** and more. Ask the staff of your local comic shop for suggestions for comic strip reprint books that would make excellent--and unexpected--gifts for the holidays. Who knows? Before too long, you might find those comics fans eagerly scanning through the daily newspaper (if they don't already)...



Misc. Gift Items

As the holidays get closer and closer and you're still having trouble finding ideas for gifts for a comics collector, you might want to consider numerous smaller items that any collector can use. Most of these gift ideas are inexpensive, readily available, and very popular with collectors.

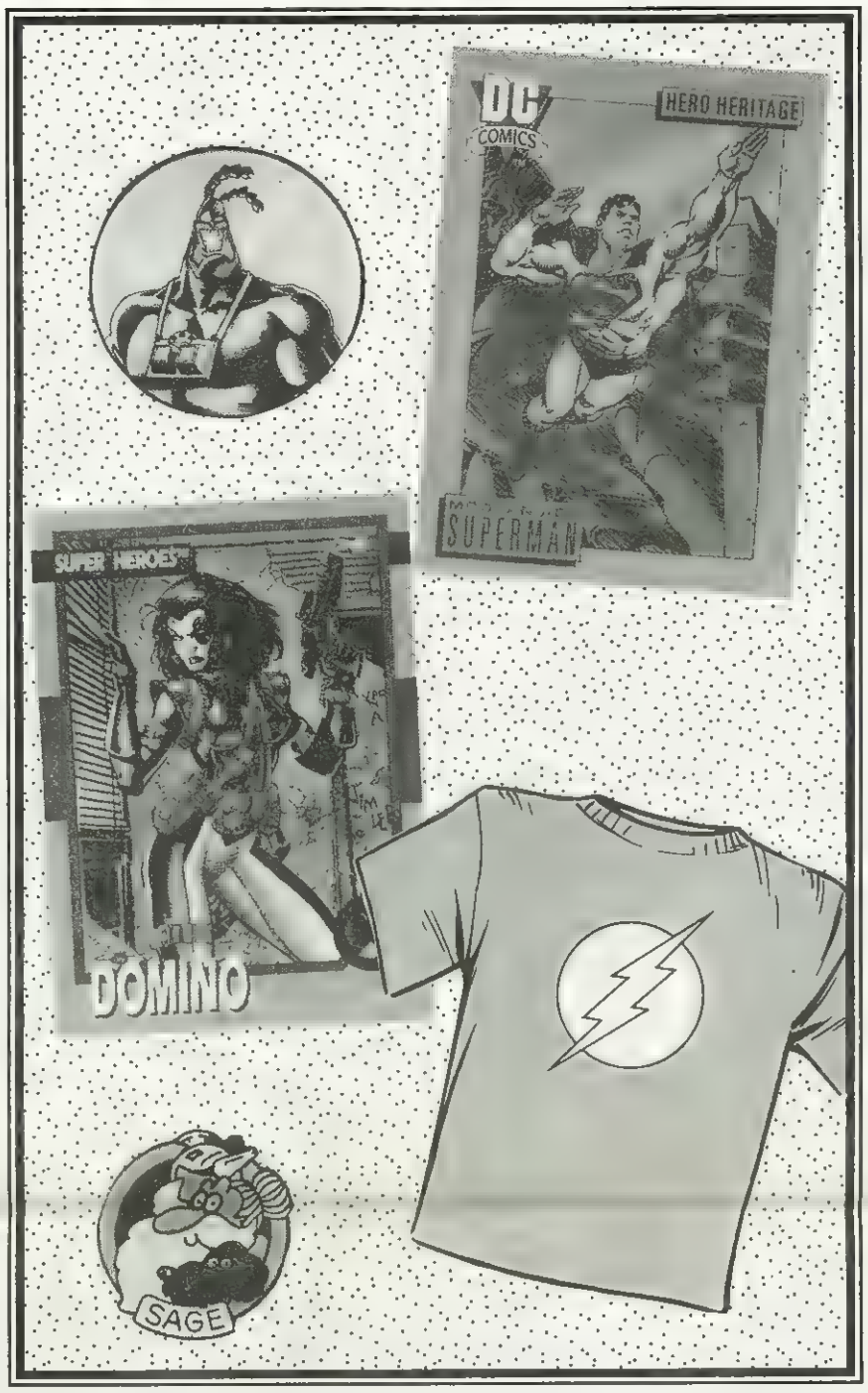
DC and Marvel have come up with almost the same idea: each is offering a guide to their characters in handy prepunched looseleaf packets. ***DC's Who's Who*** ($4.95 per set) features 24 magazine-sized sheets with art by fan favorites on the front and text information about the heroes on the back. Binders are available to hold the sheets ($8 @). DC has done the same thing for their newly-created Impact Universe, creating a two-volume ***Impact Universe Who's Who***. Marvel's ***Handbook of the Marvel Universe Master Edition*** ($4.50@) is much the same, except that a single artist supplies the reference illustrations and the entire package is comics-sized. Marvel also has a binder to hold these sets together ($8).

Comics bags are great gifts. A hundred bags aren't very expensive, are often useful, and are frequently overlooked when collectors are buying for themselves. If you know a collector who has a large collection he's never gotten around to bagging--a common problem with collectors who have thousands of books--then a thousand bags would be even better!

If you want to give the collector a real "gift assortment," then put together a package of a hundred modern bags (to fit recent comic books), a hundred silver age bags (to fit older comics and slightly-larger independent books), and a hundred magazine bags (for magazines and graphic novels). Even if the collector is well-stocked on bags now, he'll be able to use them later. Furthermore, many collectors never remember to buy the odd-sized bags they need for some items in their collections. This assortment will cover books of all sizes.

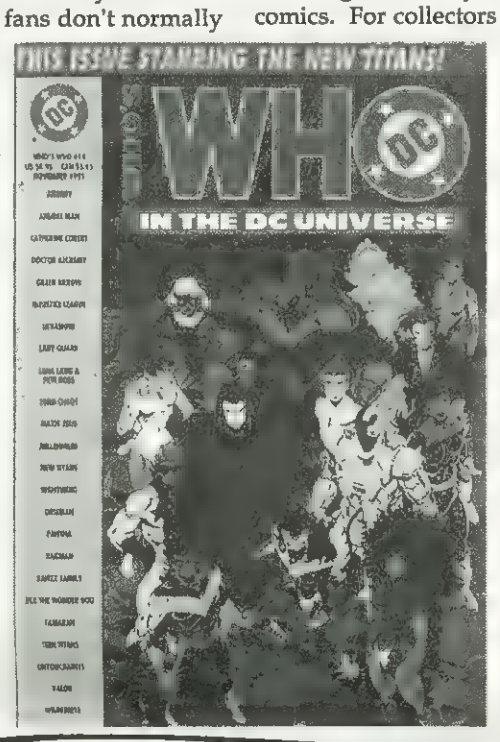
If you want to help a comics fan upgrade to the Cadillac of comics bags, you can buy him or her some of the more expensive *mylar bags*. These deluxe bags offer the ultimate in comics protection--and they're the sort of gift that many fans don't normally pick up for themselves.

Backing boards are another sort of "splurge items" that most collectors rarely buy for themselves. These are acid-free specially-treated boards that fit in the bag behind the comic book, adding strength to the bagged comic and protecting it from bending and other damage.



Again, most comic shops carry these buy the hundreds or the thousands; they're not only useful and functional gifts, but they can make a collection look much, much better as well!

What about *boxes?* If you're looking for last-minute gifts and you're tired of seeing comics scattered all over the house, then you should really consider a gift of comics boxes. For those fans who have plenty of room, full-sized boxes are perfect; these boxes are about 27" long, and they hold about 350 comics. For collectors who are trying to keep their collections in bedroom closets, half-sized boxes might be a better idea; these boxes are about 15" long and hold just a little more than half as many comics as as a full-sized box holds. Since they're not as deep, though, they fit in a closet easily. Magazine boxes are also available for graphic novels and magazines; these only come in one shorter length.



Plastic dividers are a luxury item that can help organize a collection; these sturdy dividers are like the ones many comic shops use, and they offer a tab that stands taller than books and has room to mark titles, etc. This will help keep the collection neatly separated and make it more accessible to the collector who likes to keep everything organized. These are available individually or in hundred lots.

The best idea yet might be to combine all four into a gift package; complete with 300 bags, 300 backing boards, a dozen divider cards, and a full-sized box; or 200 bags, 200 backing boards, a half-dozen dividers, and a shorter box. This will give the collector enough bags and backing boards to fill up the box with his newly-bagged collection, along with divider cards to keep the books neat and orderly.

Another thoughtful gift that's great as a stocking stuffer is a "*first issue pack*." Ask your comics shop's staff to help you select a dozen or so recent first issues. Not only are first issues the ones most likely to become valuable, but they also give the collector a chance to sample a new title from its beginning. There are hundreds of comics published each month, and most collectors simply can't afford to try every first issue--but they'd certainly appreciate it if someone gave them an assortment as a gift.

Since many comics fans are also aspiring comics artists, why not give them "the tools of the trade"? ***Blue-Line Comics Pages*** are professional quality illustration board, already marked in non-reproducible blue to show where for panel borders, etc. ($10/20 sheets)

Posters make fine gifts for comics fans. There are dozens of posters from Marvel, DC, First, and many other companies, all featuring favorite characters illustrated by popular artists. Most of these posters sell for less than $6, making them inexpensive wall decorations and gift ideas.

Buttons are great stocking stuffers. Comic shops have assortments of comics-related buttons and cloisonne pins ranging in price from $1 to $8; a handful of buttons featuring favorite characters is sure to please.

Videotapes make great gifts. A variety of companies are issuing fine videotapes of Japanese animation; some are subtitled and some are dubbed, but either format features the high-quality animation that fans crave. Comic shops also offer an assortment of videotapes featuring classic television, American animation, sf films, cult classics, and more.

Many comic shops also offer a wide variety of *collector's cards*. Skybox's three series of Marvel superhero cards have been phenomenally successful; the company has also produced Disney cards, DC Cosmic Cards, and three series of Star Trek cards. Comics Images has a number of cards in its line, including X-Force, Youngblood, Wolverine, Spider-Man, Valiant, Shadowhawk, and X-Men. Eclipse has produced a number of politically-oriented collector's cards for the older fan. The comics-related card market is very hot right now; fans will always appreciate a few packs of cards as stocking stuffers.

How about comics-related clothing? There are *t-shirts* galore, featuring virtually any comics character you might want. Kitchen Sink has released *Nancy and Sluggo neckties* for the well-dressed fan who wants to let people know he enjoys comics; and Planet Studios has offered an assortment of *comics-related bolo ties*. And if you want to accessorize, there are *comics-related wristwatches*, ranging from inexpensive sport watches to deluxe limited edition Rocketeer watches from Fossil.

Comic shops also carry comics-related calendars, stuffed toys, adventure books, illustrated novels, and the like, all of which are suitable for gift giving. Check with your local comic shop and see what they have for last-minute gift giving. There's no better "Santa's helper" than your local comics shop staff; they know what's new, what's available, and they can work within a price range that you set. With their help, you can be sure to find items to make this holiday season memorable for a comics fan.

Graphic Novels

For a comics fan, one of the least expensive (and most appreciated) gifts you can give is the graphic novel. Graphic novels are convenient packages, usually presenting original stories and art in quality formats. They stand alone--that is, the story can be read by anyone, whether they collect the comics series related to the graphic novel or not--so a comics fan can enjoy an adventure of a hero or team he might not normally collect. The graphic novel is also a marvelous introduction to new comics artists, writers, and creations.

Piranha Press specializes in out-of-the ordinary comics. Two of their graphic novels are superb gifts for older readers who like variety in comics. *Gregory* ($7.95) is the story of an autistic, institutionalized young boy and his life in his padded cell. In spite of the grim subject matter, the book is upbeat, amusing, and sometimes poignant. The book has become such a cult hit that it has inspired a new sequel, *Gregory II,* spotlighting Gregory's pal Herman Vermin ($5.95). *Why I Hate Saturn* ($14.95) is Kyle Baker's quirky, hip, and thoroughly delightful tale of two sisters, a murder plot, and a thrilling race for survival.

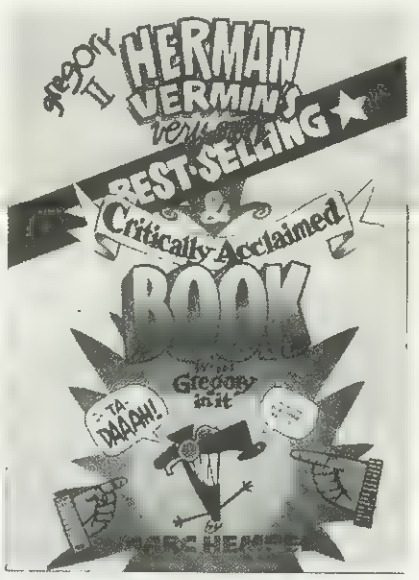
Marvel has a wide assortment of graphic novels that will please fans of superhero adventure as well as heroic fantasy. Many of these graphic novels center on Marvel's ever-popular mutant superheroes. One of the most popular graphic novels of all time features the X-Men; entitled *God Loves, Man Kills,* it's a superb story of humanity's mistrust of mutants. ($9.95). *X-Men: Pryde of the X-Men* is a unique graphic novel that features art taken from the animation cels prepared for the X-Men animated pilot episode. ($12.95)

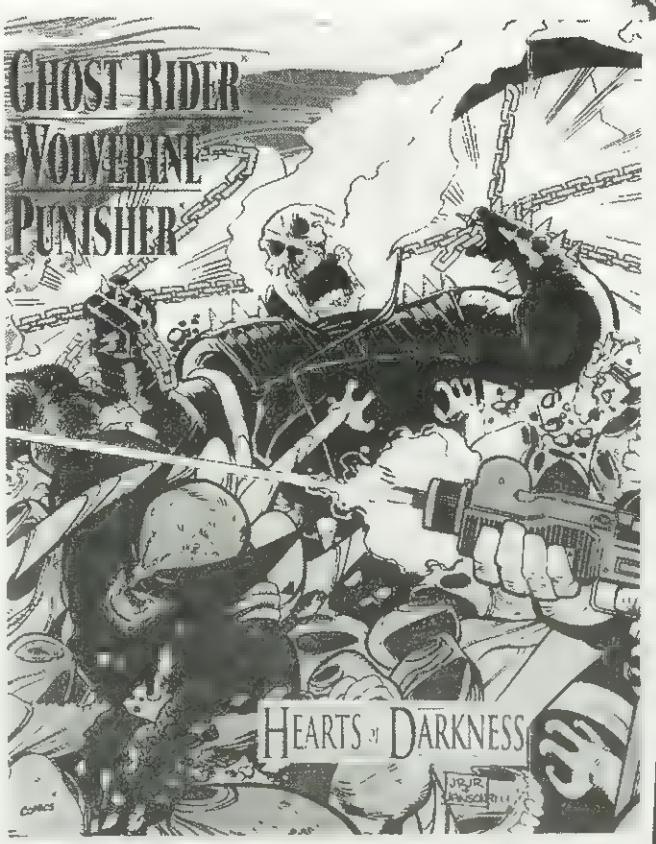
Dinosaurs are always popular with readers old and young, so Marvel's four prestige-format *Dinosaurs* volumes will be appreciated by any comics fan. Each book offers a mixture of text and comics material spotlighting different types of dinosaurs. ($4.95 @)

Wolverine: Bloody Choices ($12.95) teams Wolverine and Nick Fury, as does *The Scorpio Connection* ($12.95). these are always popular, since fans tend to especially enjoy superhero crossovers. *Wolverine: Rahne of Terra* takes Wolverine into an alternate world where that world's version of Magneto attempts to use him to kill that world's version of New Mutant Rahne. ($5.95)

Wolverine is also part of the trio of heroes featured in the December-release graphic novel *Wolverine/Ghost Rider/Punisher: Hearts of Darkness.* A meeting of superheroes of this caliber doesn't come along very often--but when it does, it results in a book that almost every superhero fan will enjoy. ($4.95) Ghost Rider also costars in *Fear,* a new graphic novel that teams him with Captain America. ($5.95)

Excalibur is featured in three graphic novels. *Excalibur: The Sword is Drawn* introduces the team and features art by current Excalibur creator Alan Davis ($4.95). *Excalibur: Mojo Mayhem* is a warped tale featuring one of Excalibur's most popular adversaries ($4.95). Finally, *Excalibur: Weird War III* takes the team to an alternate Nazi-dominated world that features a variety of intriguing twists. ($9.95)





Another group of mutants, the *New Mutants,* are features in their own graphic novel. This book first introduced this young mutant team to comics readers, and is a great introduction to the series. ($9.95)

Spider-Man: Parallel Lives is a great introduction to Spider-Man, because this graphic novel retells his origin and his early life, while presenting a new confrontation with Dr. Octopus. ($9.95) Spider-Man travels to Scotland for a fantastic adventure in Charles Vess' lavishly-painted hardcover graphic novel *Spider-Man: Spirits of the Earth.* ($18.95) And *Spider-Man: Soul of the Hunter* reunites J.M. DeMatteis, Mike Zeck, and Bob McLeod in a sequel to one of the most popular Spider-Man storylines of all time, the death of Kraven. ($6.95)

67 Seconds isn't a superhero story; it is, though, a complex science fiction story that features a very human tale of love and devotion. A photographer struggles to save his reporter partner's life; he has only 67 seconds to accomplish his goal—and as he attempts to do so, he flashes back on their history together. ($15.95)

Silver Surfer: Homecoming is a new Silver Surfer graphic novel written by Jim Starlin (the author who helped make Silver Surfer the comics success he is today) and illustrated by Bill Reinhold. Marvel is releasing this extra-length graphic novel just in time for holiday gift-giving season this year. ($12.95)

The Punisher stars in a *trio* of graphic novels. *The Punisher: Assassin's Guild* by Jo Duffy and Jorge Zaffino focuses on the Punisher's reluctant team-up with a group of youthful assassins ($9.95). *The Punisher: Intruder* is a hardcover graphic novel by Baron and Reinhold, current creators of the Punisher comic book series ($14.95). And *The Punisher: Return to Big Nothing* brings back the creators of the Punisher limited series for an all-new adventure that explores the Punisher's military days. ($16.95)

The Squadron Supreme are back in *Squadron Supreme: Death of a Universe,* a story that threatens to end not only the alternate earth of the Squadron Supreme, but the Marvel earth as well! ($9.95)

Dr. Strange and Dr. Doom: Triumph and Torment teams up the two doctors for a mission of mercy: Doom wants his mother freed from Mephisto's clutches. This work features stunning art by Mike Mignola and Mark Badger; what comics fan wouldn't be thrilled to find that team's art under the tree?! ($9.95)

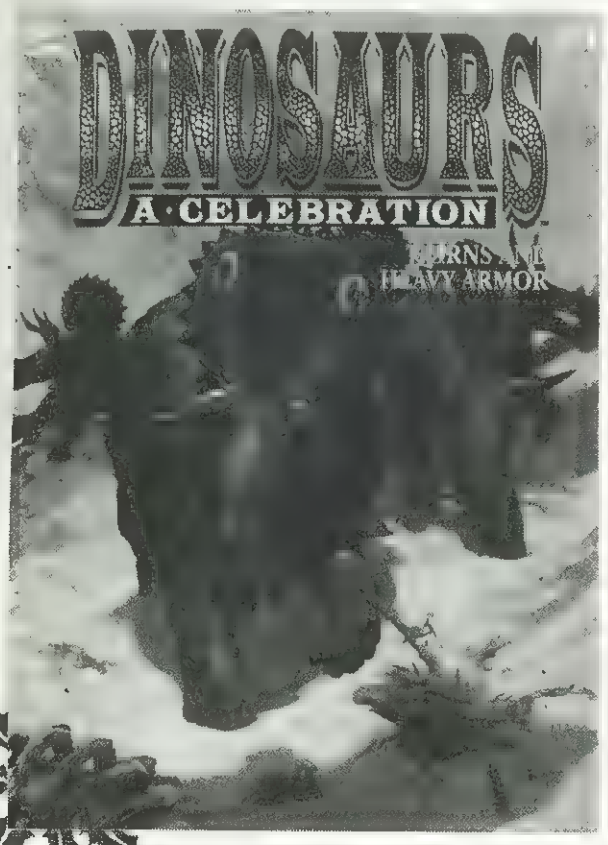
She-Hulk by John Byrne is the graphic novel that in many ways inspired the hit comic book series. It's a grand hero adventure with art by a fan favorite ($9.95). With Byrne is back on the *She-Hulk* comic once again, this book would be a fine gift for the new She-Hulk fan.

Daredevil has recently defeated his long-time foe The Kingpin, renewing interest in their previous confrontations. One of the most exciting of those confrontations can be found in *Daredevil: Love and War,* created by fan-favorites Frank Miller and Bill Sienkiewicz, pitting him against his nemesis ($9.95).

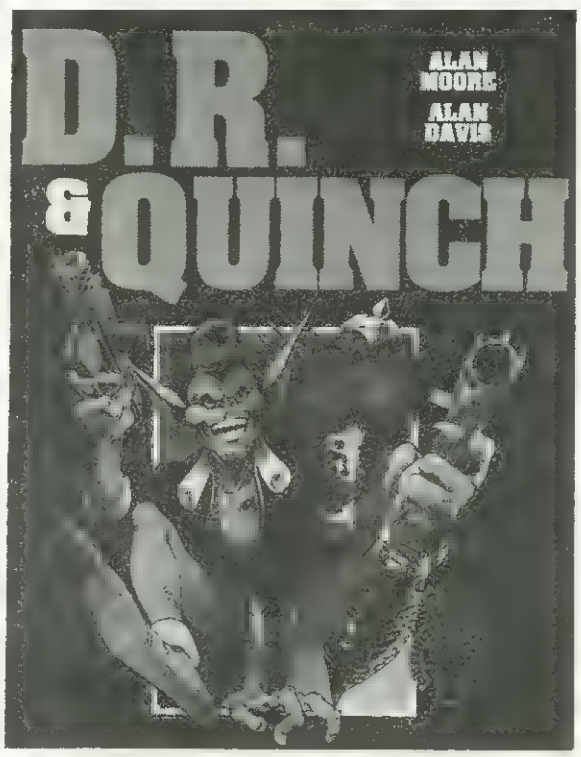
Who Framed Roger Rabbit?($7.95) and *The Resurrection of Doom* ($8.95) are a pair of graphic novels based on the hit film. The former is an adaptation of the film, while the latter is a *totally original* graphic novel.

Someplace Strange by Ann Nocenti and John Bolton is a very surreal graphic novel that takes a trio of young people into a fantasy world where their every dream--and fear--can become all too real. This is a great gift for comics fans, since one of the three heroes is a comics reader, and Marvel Comics inspire several of the fantasies in the book. ($6.95)

Epic's *Moebius* graphic novels and *The Incal* by Moebius and Jodorowsky feature the work of the internationally famous French comics creator. These are six stand-alone graphic novels in the *Moebius* series



Graphic Novels



and three in the *Incal* series; prices range from $9.95 to $12.95. Moebius has also created, along with writer Michel Charlier, an epic western adventure series, ***Lt. Blueberry***. Several volumes of this Western series series have been released thus far, each featuring a stand-alone adventure. ($12.95)

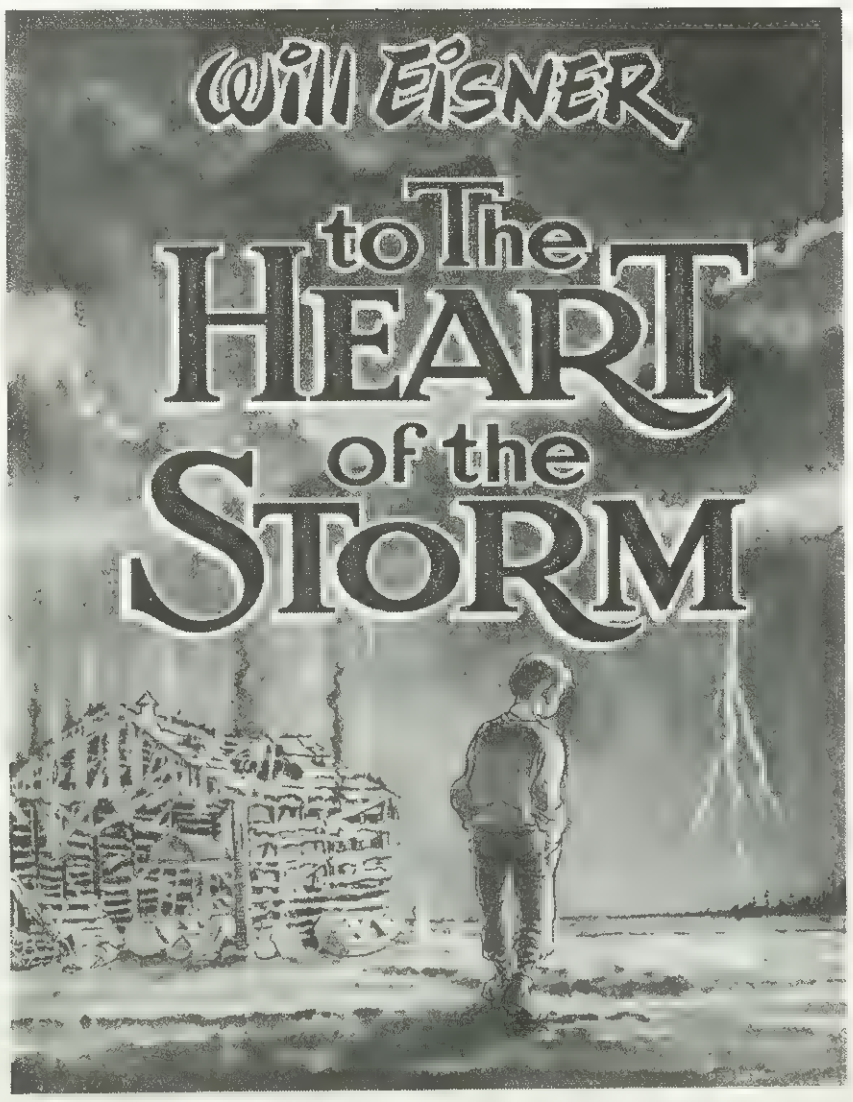
Incidentally, Comcat Books has also published a Charlier/ Moebius graphic novel, ***Young Blueberry***, recounting the earlier adventures of Mike Donovan, a.k.a. Lt. Blueberry. ($6.95)

Conan, the Robert E. Howard-created barbarian hero, has starred in several graphic novels. The most recent is Marvel's ***Conan The Rogue***, reuniting long-time Conan favorites Roy Thomas and John Buscema. ($9.95)

Dave Stevens' ***Rocketeer*** starred in his own film this summer, so a lot of comics fans would especially enjoy a chance to see his early comic book adventures. Eclipse's ***Rocketeer*** graphic novel story is an adventure inspired by the heroic action films of the 1930's, and it captures their mood and tone perfectly. Doc Savage fans will be particularly happy with this gift. ($9.95)

ALAN
MOORE
FRANK
MILLER
We've just added M+M's....
THIS BOOK WILL
MELT IN YOUR HANDS!!!
Todd McFarlane's
SPAWN
image
AWARD WINNING WRITER, ALAN MOORE, TAKES YOU ON A TRIP THROUGH THE MULTI LAYERS OF HELL. FOLLOW THE DESCENT OF BILL KINCAID, LAST SEEN: DEAD AT THE END OF ISSUE FIVE, AS HE EMBARKS ON A JOURNEY OF HELL TO FIND THAT ALL OF THE LEVELS WERE NOT CREATED EQUAL. HE IS HAUNTED BY HIS OWN DEATH, WHICH WE SEE FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND WHY HE BECAME SPAWN'S FIRST CONSCIOUS KILL. ALSO FIND OUT THE ORIGIN OF SPAWN'S COSTUME IN THIS ELECTRIFYING 21 PAGE STORY. AS A BONUS FEATURE THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL COLOR PULL-OUT POSTER BY FRANK MILLER, INTERIOR ART BY TODD MCFARLANE. MOORE - MILLER - MCFARLANE = MIND-BLOWING. ALSO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ISSUES NINE, TEN, AND ELEVEN WRITTEN BY NEIL GAIMAN, DAVE SIM, AND TENTATIVELY FRANK MILLER, RESPECTIVELY.
COMING IN SPAWN
8
FROM IMAGE COMICS

Graphic Novels



Fans who are interested in a healthy dose of reality will enjoy ***Brought to Light***, a graphic novel that exposes government corruption and scandal. Alan Moore, Bill Sienkiewicz, Joyce Brabner, and Tom Yeates create the two stories that make up this volume. ($8.95)

Gladstone Comics offers a series of ***Disney Graphic Albums*** featuring outstanding stories starring Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Uncle Scrooge, and others. Disney's universal appeal will make these great comics gifts for fans young and old. ($5.95-$12.95)

Walt Disney's Donald Duck Christmas Stories is a wonderful holiday gift; it reprints some of the hardest to find of all the Carl Bark duck stories, originally created for a series of giveaways in the 1940's. ($8.95) Gladstone has also assembled two volumes of ***Carl Barks Collection of One-Pagers***, featuring the short-shorts that filled out the various Duck books from the 1940's through the 1960's. And Disney is reprinting all of Carl Barks' Donald Duck stories in the ***Carl Barks Library Album***; eight volumes are available so far. ($8.95@)

4Winds' biggest project of the year, though, isn't fantasy, superhero, or science fiction; it is instead a compelling historical drama by Timothy Truman. ***Wilderness Book One: The Borderland*** and ***Wilderness: Book Two: Bloody Ground*** tell the true story of Simon Girty. This rough-edged graphic novel is perhaps Tim Truman's best work ever; fans who enjoyed his ***Hawkworld*** series should *thrill* over this historical saga. ($14.95 @)

DC's Batman graphic novel ***Son of the Demon*** is a strong story about Batman's marriage, and is a great stand-alone Batman adventure for fans of Batman no matter what their ages. ($8.95) It is followed by a two sequels, ***Batman: Bride of the Demon.*** ($12.95), and ***Batman: Birth of the Demon***, available only in hardcover ($24.95).

Bat-fans will also want ***Batman: The Killing Joke***, a graphic novel that pits the Batman against his nemesis the Joker. This Alan Moore-Brian Bolland story is strong stuff; it's interesting in that it offers a different look at the Joker's origin. ($3.95)

DC has several alternate-world looks at Batman. ***Gotham by Gaslight*** is a graphic novel that takes a different look at Batman. What if Batman had lived in the 1890's? What if he had faced the menace of Jack the Ripper? That's the story of this work by Brian Augustyn, Mike Mignola, and P. Craig Russell. ($4.95) It's followed by ***Batman: Master of the Universe***, which picks up a few years after Gotham By Gaslight, when Batman has to return to battle a menace who threatens Gotham's Exposition. ($4.95) ***Batman: Holy Terror*** presents a Batman born in a church-controlled world where corruption has crept in at even the highest levels $4.95). The most ambitious alternate-world look at Batman, though, is ***Batman/Dracula: Red Rain***, a graphic novel pitting Batman against Dracula, courtesy of the creative team of Doug Moench and Kelley Jones. ($14.95)

Batman: Digital Justice presents another alternative Batman, in this case a futuristic Batman battling a destructive computer virus known as Joker that threatens Gotham City. Pepe Moreno's computer-produced artwork is an intriguing complement to the computer-oriented storyline. ($24.95)

How about an "in-depth" look at Batman? That's just what you get in ***Batman in 3-D***, a graphic novel by John Byrne that is supplemented by 3-D pin-ups by a variety of top-name creators. ($9.95)

Batman: Full Circle reunites creators Mike Barr and Alan Davis for a sequel to Batman: Year Two. The Reaper is back, and it's up to Batman to stop him--but this new Reaper is driven by much the same motivation that led Bruce Wayne to become the Batman!... ($5.95)

Of course, there's ***Arkham Asylum***, the painted graphic novel that takes Batman into the Asylum after the inmates have taken over. This is a sophisticated, mature work for older, more discriminating readers. ($14.95)

Green Lantern: Ganthet's Tale is a historic Green Lantern graphic novel that unites one of the top talents in the sf field, Larry Niven, with one of the top talents in the comics field, Larry Niven, to present the true origin of the Guardians. This is Green Lantern at his most cosmic, and it's a great gift item for Green Lantern fans who enjoy seeing the hero living up to his potential. ($5.95)

Generation: Zero is a post-holocaust science fiction novel written by Archie Goodwin and illustrated by Pepe Moreno, the artist who rose to fame for his work on ***Batman: Digital Justice.*** ($14.95)

John Byrne's *2112* is a great graphic novel gift for fans who are familiar with Byrne's work at Marvel or DC. It's a futuristic super-hero tale that ties in with Byrne's Dark Horse comic book series ***The Next Men,*** ($9.95)

To the Heart of the Storm is a great gift: it's an all-new graphic novel by Will Eisner, one of the masters of comic art. It's a very touching, very human autobiographical tale of a young boy growing up in New York City. Eisner's experiences are, in their own way, as exciting as any superhero slugfest. ($14.95)

Eisner looks at the early days of comics in ***The Dreamer***, a *roman a clef* graphic novel about the birth of the comics medium. ($9.95)

Another long-time comics master, Joe Kubert, has created ***Abraham Stone: Country Mouse, City Rat. Abraham Stone*** is a moody, brutal story of a young man's desire for vengeance against the criminals who slaughtered his family; it's a period piece that offers a refreshing look at an archetypal comic book theme. ($9.95)

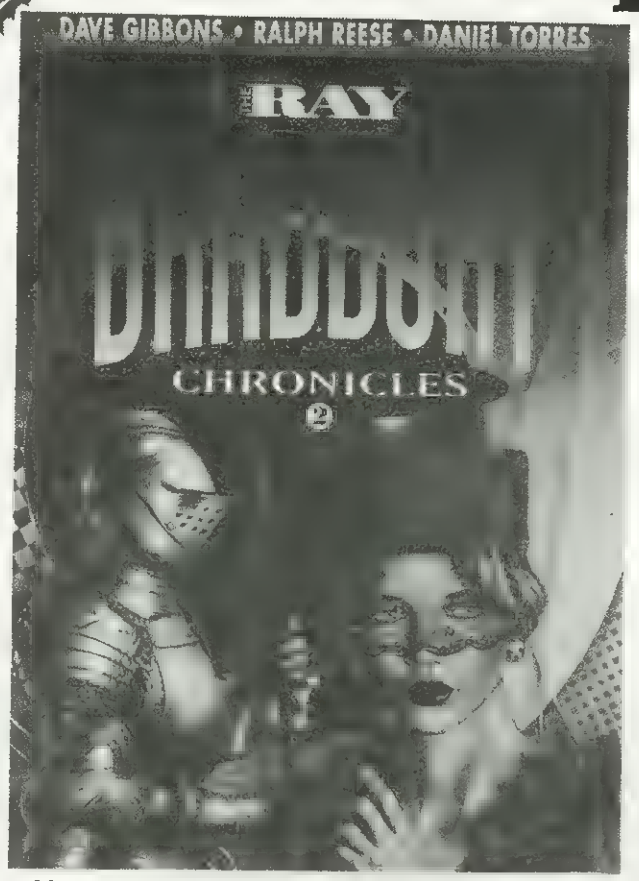
Taboo is a horror graphic novel series from Spiderbaby Grafix that is *graphic* indeed; these volumes are intended for older fans of horror who aren't easily shocked. Each volume offers outstanding work by a variety of horror writers and artists, including Alan Moore ("From Hell"), John Totleben, Steve Bissette, and others. ($14.95 per book)

In ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Challenges***, creator Michael Dooney features solo stories starring each of the Turtles plus Splinter. Turtles fans will be thrilled to receive this gift, since it will appeal to fans of the animated series, the live-action films, the Archie all-ages comics, and the Mirage versions as well. ($6.95)

Violent Cases is a fine gift for older fans; Grant Morrison and Dave McKean have created a dark, nostalgic look at the bygone age of gangsters told from the point of view of a man who knew them well... ($9.95)

Simon Bisley has become quite a comics superstar due to his cover art

Graphic Novels



and his work on the *Lobo* limited series. Fans who want to see some of his best work will find it in the pages of the Fleetway ***Slaine the Horned God*** three-volume graphic novel series. Each painted panel is as attractive as any of Bisley's ever-popular covers. ($9.95 @)

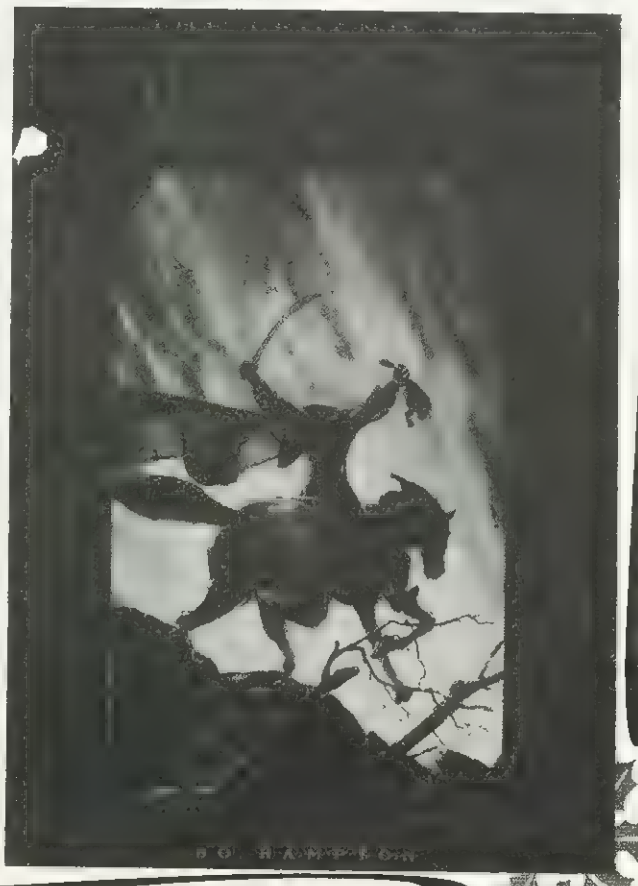
The two Alans--Moore and Davis--worked together to come up with the wry, hip, and destructively amusing ***D.R. and Quinch.*** Just in time for Christmas, Fleetway has announced plans to offer a first-ever color version of this hilarious graphic novel. ($9.95)

Miracleman: Book One is the quintessential Alan Moore superhero story, illustrated by Leach and Davis. This is the first grimly realistic look at the superhero. ($9.95) ***Miracleman: Book Two: Red King Syndrome*** ($12.95) and ***Miracleman Book Three: Olympus*** ($12.95) reprint the remainder of the Alan Moore storylines, leading into the current run of Miracleman stories by Neil Gaiman. ***Miracleman Book Four: The Golden Age*** collects the first Gaiman story arc into a single volume. ($14.95)

The Ray Bradbury Chronicles offers high-quality comic book adaptations of some of Ray Bradbury's best known stories by some of the comic field's best artists. These books are available in both standard graphic novels ($10@) and deluxe limited edition hardcovers ($45.95@). Three volumes have been released so far.

Washington Irving's classic tale ***The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*** has been adapted in a stunning graphic novel by Bo Hampton. Anyone who ever shuddered in fear at Disney's cartoon adaptation will love this more malevolent version of the tale. ($7.95)

In addition to the graphic novels mentioned, your local comics shop has dozens of other titles available, and may even have copies of some graphic novels that are out of print from the publishers. If all these titles are new and confusing to you, the staff can help you find books to appeal to your gift recipient. They can direct you to many other graphic novels not mentioned in these pages that can make a happy holiday possible for readers of every taste!



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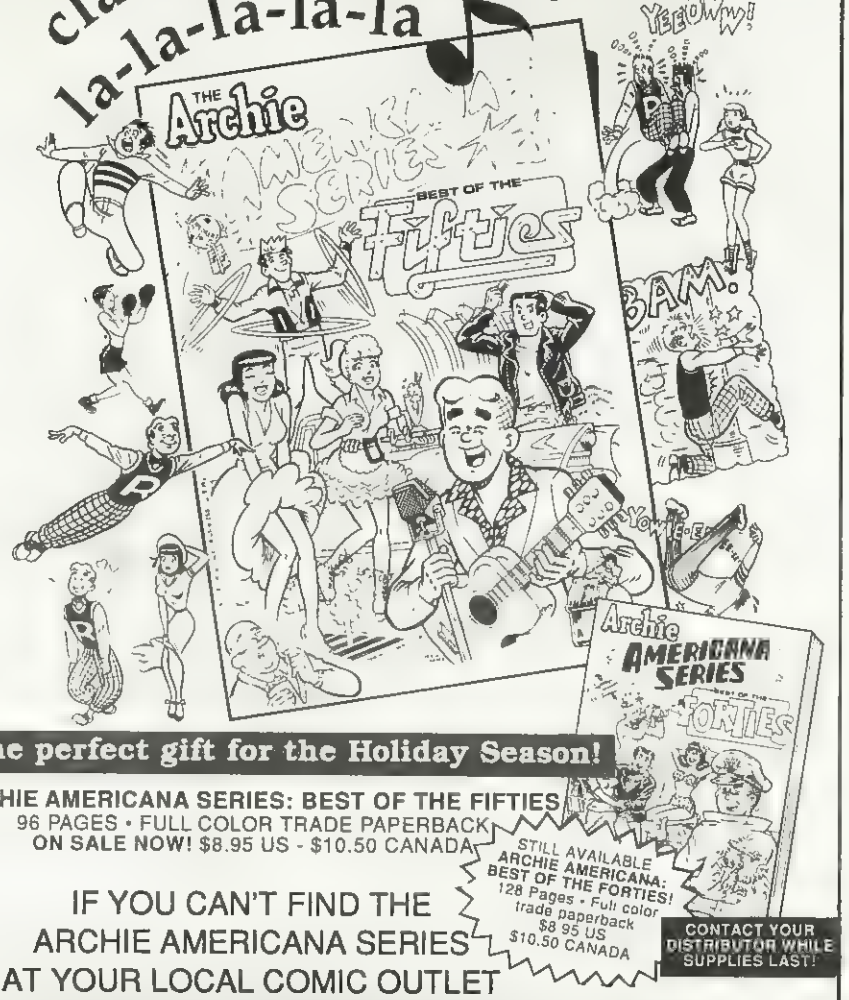

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LOOK FOR THE SEGA GENESIS EX-MUTANTS VIDEO GAME ON SALE IN NOVEMBER

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Christmas Checklist

The *Christmas Checklist* is an alphabetical listing of all the gift items mentioned in the *CSN Christmas Special*. In the case of multi-volume sets, a space is provided to list the preferred volume. Feel free to use this as your personal Christmas Wish List and even make extra copies for friends and relatives. All the items listed are currently in print, so if you don't see what you want, be sure to ask about special ordering it for you. Many of these gift items are available *exclusively* at a Comic Specialty outlet like this one:

All items available from:

A Comics Specialty Outlet

- ❒*Abraham Stone: Country Mouse, City Rat*
- ❒*Akira TPB (6 volumes)*_____
- ❒*Akira Deluxe HC (2 volumes)* _____
- ❒*Aliens*
- ❒*Aliens Book Two*
- ❒*Aliens: Earth War*
- ❒*Aliens: Tribes*
- ❒*Aliens Vs. Predator*
- ❒*All-Star Archives*
- ❒*American TPB*
- ❒*Animal Man*
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- ❒*Punisher: Assassin's Guild*
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- ❒*Spider-Man: Assassination Plot*
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- ❒*Taylor History of Comics: SF Comics*
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- ❒*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turltes: Challenges*
- ❒*Terminator: Tempest*
- ❒*Terry & the Pirates*_____
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- ❒*Vampirella*
- ❒*Violent Cases*
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- ❒*Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*
- ❒*Why I Hate Saturn*
- ❒*Wilderness Book One: The Borderland*
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- ❒*Wolverine: Bloody Choices*
- ❒*Wolverine/Nick Fury: Scorpio Connection*
- ❒*Wolverine/Ghost Rider/Punisher: Hearts of Darkness*
- ❒*Wolverine: Rahne of Terra*
- ❒*X-Men: Asgardian Wars*
- ❒*X-Men: Days of Future Present*
- ❒*X-Men: From the Ashes*
- ❒*X-Men Vs. Fantastic Four*
- ❒*X-Men in the Savage Land*
- ❒*X-Men: Phoenix Saga*
- ❒*X-Men: Pryde of the X-Men*
- ❒*X-Men: X-Tinction Agenda*
- ❒*Yattering & Jack*
- ❒*Young Blueberry*

Christmas Checklist

The *Christmas Checklist* is an alphabetical listing of all the gift items mentioned in the *CSN Christmas Special*. In the case of multi-volume sets, a space is provided to list the preferred volume. Feel free to use this as your personal Christmas Wish List and even make extra copies for friends and relatives. All the items listed are currently in print, so if you don't see what you want, be sure to ask about special ordering it for you. Many of these gift items are available *exclusively* at a Comic Specialty outlet like this one:

All items available from:

A Comics Specialty Outlet

- ❒Abraham Stone: Country Mouse, City Rat
- ❒Akira TPB (6 volumes)_____
- ❒Akira Deluxe HC (2 volumes)_____
- ❒Aliens
- ❒Aliens Book Two
- ❒Aliens: Earth War
- ❒Aliens: Tribes
- ❒Aliens Vs. Predator
- ❒All-Star Archives
- ❒American TPB
- ❒Animal Man
- ❒Another Chance To Get It Right
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- ❒X-Men: Pryde of the X-Men
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Saga Of The Alien Costume
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Writers: Tom DeFalco and Roger Stern • Artists Ron Frenz and Rick Leonardi
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Spirits Of The Earth
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Spidey and Mary Jane take a second honeymoon in a romantic castle in the Scottish highlands. But between the ghosties and the beasties and the Scottish Branch of the Hellfire Club, Spidey can't wait to get back to the peace and quiet of NYC. Beautifully painted by Charles Vess.

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Writer: Gregory Wright • Artist: Tod Smith and Danny Bulanadi
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Writer: Steven Grant • Artists: Mike Zeck and John Beatty
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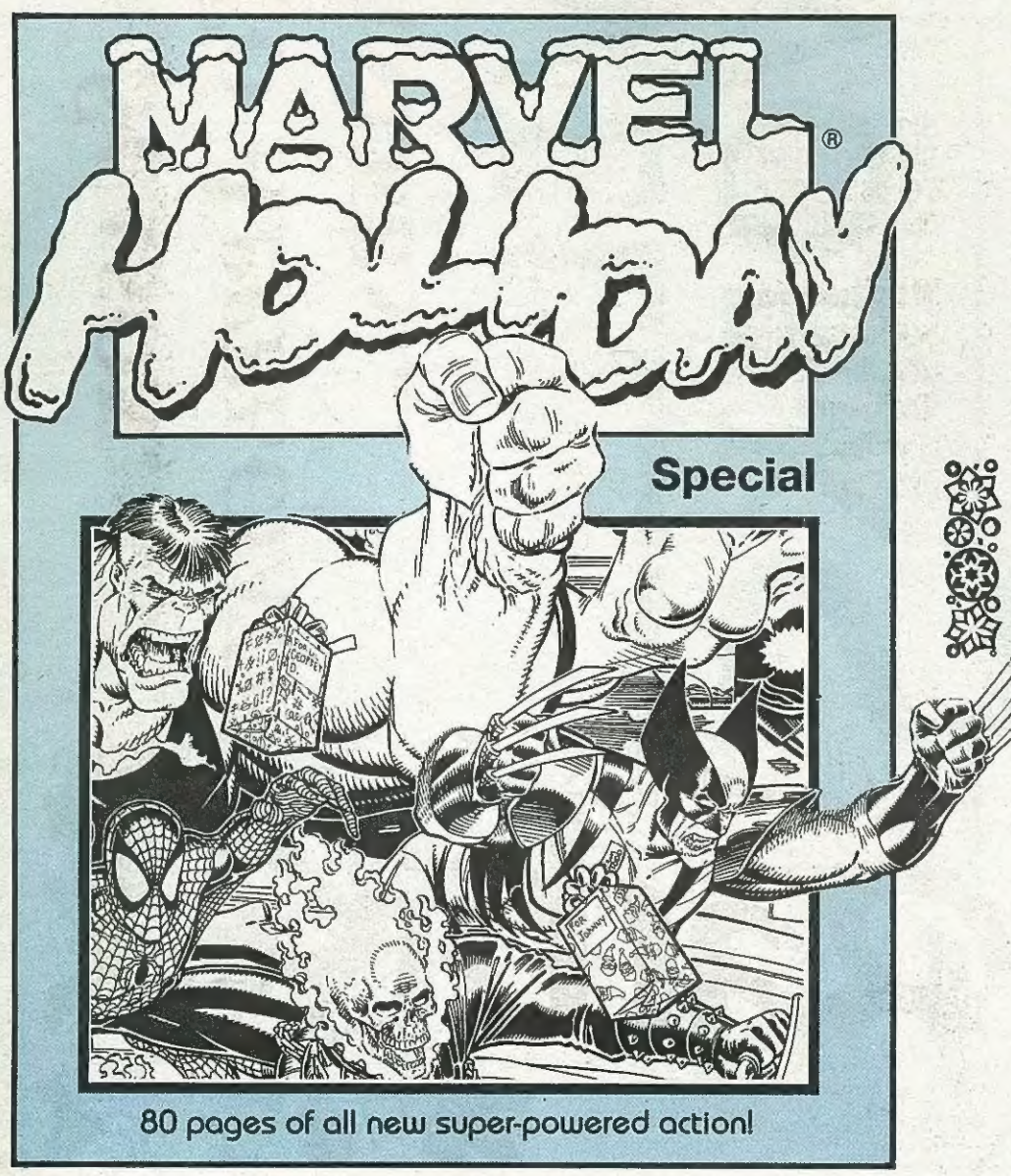

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